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Villagomez: Bribery charges based on conjecture. PAGE 2

Tinian Dynasty's, call center's QCs revoked. PAGE 3

Saipan's collapse one of fastest in US history—documentary

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
Haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

From being the poster child of the ultimate globalization success story, Saipan now faces one of the fastest economic collapses in the history of the United States and the world, according to a new documentary on Current TV.

ON THE NET
http://current.com/users/Adam_Yamaguchi/all/0.htm

Current TV is a cable network founded by former U.S. Vice President Al Gore.

The documentary features the

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NMC's show-cause extended

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The much-awaited decision of the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges on the fate of the Northern Marianas College came as a surprise yesterday for its officials and students—the college was placed on continued show-cause status until it meets the remaining standards being asked by the accrediting body.

A comprehensive report focusing on the remaining two recommendations by the visiting team needs to be submitted on April 1, 2009, where a final decision is expected for release in the commission's June as-

See NMC'S on Page 4

INSULAR FLAGS CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Northern Mariana Islands Delegate Gregorio "Kilili" Camacho Sablan raises the Commonwealth flag and adds it to the flags of the U.S. and its insular areas Wednesday as Natural Resources Committee members look on. Others in the picture are Reps. Doc Hastings (R-WA), Pedro Pierluisi (D-PR), committee chair Nick J. Rahall (D-WV), Madeleine Z. Bordallo (D-GU), and Eni F.V. Faleomavaega (D-AS).

Fitial to veto budget

Proposal's lack of austerity measures prompts action

By KRISTI EATON
kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial said yesterday he would veto the Legislature's second attempt at a fiscal year 2009 budget, citing a lack of austerity measures in the bill.

In December, when Fitial vetoed the Legislature's first budget plan of $165.4 million—citing an $8 million drop in projected local revenue—he urged the Legislature to include austerity measures in any future budget measure. After the veto, he then slashed government budgets across the board by 5.5 percent for the rest of the fiscal year to reach $156 million, which would allow the government to finish the year in the black.

The House Ways and Means

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KRISTI EATON

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, Rep. Victor Hocog and Rep. Oscar Babauta listen to CUC executive director Antonio Muna during a press conference yesterday in the Governor's Office.

Report: 2008 a bleak year for NMI

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Major economic indicators like business gross revenue, garment exports, import tonnage, remittances, tourist arrivals, and vehicle sales either plunged or remained the same in calendar year 2008 compared to 2007. Overall, the CNMI economy was at its worst in at least the last five years and is expected to get worse in 2009.

Business gross revenue went up slightly by 0.9 percent—from $1.672 billion in 2007 to $1.688 billion in 2008, but this is still much lower than the annual business sales of up to

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
If the gubernatorial elections were held today, which of the five who have already expressed their intention to run will you vote for?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

129 DAYS without a government budget for FY 2009

INSIDE

Wrong Signs
Hackers are messing with electronic road signs in some states, warning of zombies and raptors down the road.

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Infringement?
AP is alleging copyright infringement of a Warholesque image of a pensive Barack Obama.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 26

Local

Villagomez: Bribery charges based on conjecture

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Lt. Gov. Timothy P. Villagomez has argued that the bribery charges filed against him are based on conjecture and speculations by the U.S. government.

Villagomez, through lawyer David J. Lujan, said the U.S. government alleging that he received two checks and making the "giant leap in logic" that it constitutes bribery with no factual basis places him in an impossible situation in preparing his defense.

"At this point, [Villagomez] should not be impermissibly compelled to prepare a defense based upon the conjecture and speculation of the government that the mere receipt of checks constitutes bribery," said Lujan in Villagomez's motion for a bill of particulars.

Bill of particulars refers to a list of written statements made by a party to a court proceeding, upon demand of the other party. The list sets itemizes details of a claim or defense.

Last month, the U.S. Attorney's Office charged Villagomez and co-defendants James and Joaquina Santos with bribery concerning

Villagomez

a program receiving federal funds, conspiracy to defraud and to commit offenses against the U.S., wire fraud, and theft concerning a program receiving federal funds.

The new indictment alleged that Villagomez accepted a $15,000 bribe from the Santos couple for approving the purchase of Rydlyme, a cleaning and de-scaling chemical, for the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.

The Santos couple was also charged with bribery for allegedly offering the $15,000 to Villagomez.

Villagomez and the Santos couple pleaded not guilty to the charges.

In the motion for a bill of particulars, Lujan said a provision in the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedures allows a bill of particulars in order to identify with sufficient particularity the nature of the charge pending against a defendant, thereby enabling him to prepare for trial, and to prevent surprise.

Lujan said a plain reading of the first superseding indictment shows that all that is alleged is that James Santos delivered two checks to Villagomez.

"There are no factual allegations as to what the alleged 'bribe' payments were for or when they occurred, and under what circumstances," the lawyer noted.

He said if the federal court does not grant either of Villagomez's motion, his client requests that the U.S. government be required to furnish them with information that specifies the provision of the CNMI procurement laws and regulations that are alleged to have been violated in transmitting the checks.

Lujan also asked to be provided with specific federal regulations that these checks allegedly violate.

He asked for the specific federal funds that were used by James Santos in the alleged bribes and what federal program they derived from.

Lujan also requested for specific acts that Villagomez was allegedly bribed to commit.

Lujan underscored the need to get specific information, considering that the U.S. government provided them approximately 3,000 pages of documents and tape recordings.

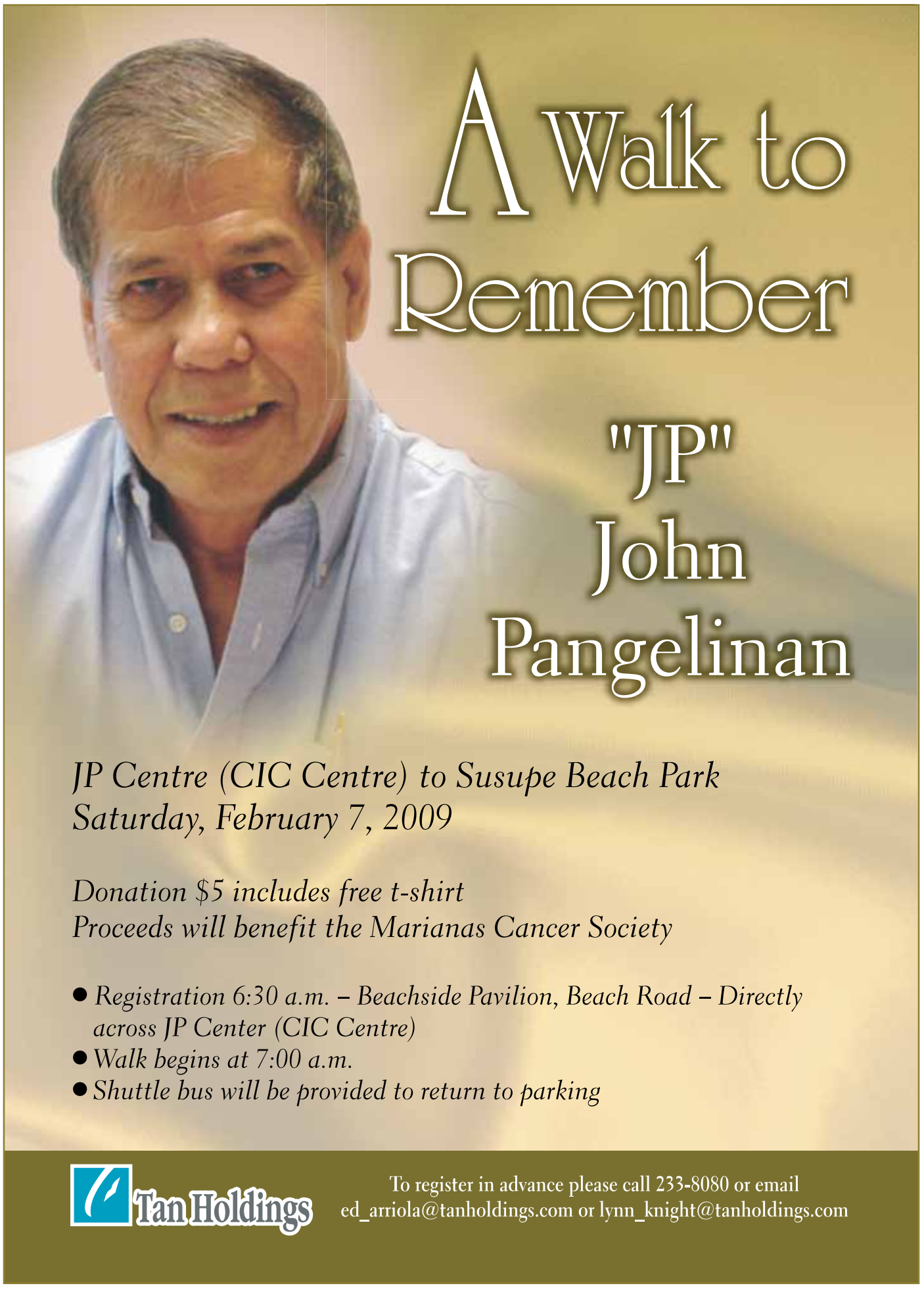
He said none of the documents and tape records refer to the actual circumstances of the alleged bribes, other than the presence of the actual checks.

Citing a precedent case, Lujan said it was held that the District Court committed reversible error in denying a motion for bill of particulars where the defendant was left unguided as to which of the 4,000 documents the government alleged were falsified.

"The criminal justice system envisioned by the drafters of our Constitution and the subsequent judicial interpretations of that document surely requires the defendant be afforded a fair opportunity to defend himself against the overwhelming resources of the government," Lujan said.

Lujan said the government should be required to furnish the requested particulars so that Villagomez is notified of the nature of the charge pending against him with sufficient particularity to enable him to properly prepare his defense.

Joaquina Santos, who is Villagomez's sister, through counsel Ramon K. Quichocho, joined in the motion. She did not offer arguments.


A Walk to Remember
"JP" John Pangelinan
JP Centre (CIC Centre) to Susupe Beach Park
Saturday, February 7, 2009
Donation $5 includes free t-shirt
Proceeds will benefit the Marianas Cancer Society
Registration 6:30 a.m. – Beachside Pavilion, Beach Road – Directly across JP Center (CIC Centre)
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House rejects resolution calling for investigation of Villagomez

By KRISTI EATON
kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The House of Representatives yesterday failed to pass a resolution that would create a committee to investigate allegations against Lt. Governor Timothy Villagomez and report recommendations on whether there was cause for impeachment.

Rep. Tina Sablan, who authored the resolution, was the only member to support the measure that would look into the charges filed against Villagomez, which include conspiracy to defraud the U.S. government, wire fraud, theft concerning federal funds and bribery.

After the resolution's defeat, Sablan said she was disappointed by the House's actions.

"I think that the action of the House to kill the resolution is a major failure on our part to what is right for the people of the CNMI," she said.

The fact that she was only one to vote in support of the resolution should resonate with the citizens of the CNMI as elections near, she added.

Many of the House members worried that conducting their own investigation might impede the criminal investigation currently ongoing, as well as taint possible jurors.

"We will taint the trial," said Rep. Diego Benavente. "That's something we don't want to do. It'll be irresponsible for us to act now."

Some members said it was too close to the March trial to begin an investigation and questioned what would happen if the Lt. Governor was impeached and later exonerated in the court of law.

"There's a reason why you're innocent until proven guilty," said Rep. Ralph Torres. "Let's respect the Judicial Branch," he said, adding that it's not a matter of turning away from the issue but respecting the system.

Sablan said she disagrees that the measure has come too late. When the first indictment came out last summer, the representatives were hesitant to do anything, she said.

Vice Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero said the House legal counsel affirmed his belief that any legislative action might affect the criminal trial. Deleon Guerrero said he realizes that if the situation occurred in the States, the Legislature would more than likely proceed with such an investigation.

"I'm glad cultural sensitivities are still important," he said. "It's not our culture to beat someone who is already down."

Sablan said she would consider a new resolution that would instead ask for Villagomez to resign. Several of the House members said they thought that could be an alternative.

Tinian Dynasty's, call center's QCs revoked

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The qualifying certificates issued to Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino and the We Manage Call Inc. are now considered revoked following inaction by Gov. Benigno R. Fitial on the recommendation of the Commonwealth Development Authority.

The islands' chief executive officer had 45 days to either sign or reject CDA's proposal. If he fails to act within the given period, the proposal is deemed automatically approved.

CDA submitted on Dec. 22, 2008, the proposal to revoke the qualifying certificates of Tinian Dynasty and the We Manage Call, the company that promised to build the CNMI first call center.

Following the expiration of the 45-day grace period last Wednesday, press secretary Charles Reyes said yesterday that the governor did not act on both proposals.

"The governor has not taken any action on the QC…" he told *Saipan Tribune*.

According to CDA's economic development analyst, the revocation was a result of "incompliance" by both companies on the requirements and conditions set in their approved qualifying certificates.

The government's qualifying certificate program grants tax incentives of up to 100 percent in tax rebates for 25 years to investors who build, expand, and operate commercial projects in the CNMI.

CDA officials admitted that Tinian Dynasty was found not complying with tax issues, environmental concerns, and violating the American Disabilities Act.

The QC program was established by law in December 2000 which was amended thereafter and included a rollback provision that allowed existing tourism businesses on the islands to avail of the program, provided they pass the minimum requirement of $2 million investment and the business is in line with the tourism industry. Tinian Dynasty, in existence since 1998, was granted the QC through this provision.

Saipan Tribune learned that the following tax incentives were earlier granted to Tinian Dynasty: 100 percent abatement of BGRT in years 1-3; 50 percent abatement of BGRT in years 4-7; and 30 percent abatement of BGRT in years 8-10. It was also entitled to an abatement in its bar tax: 50 percent in years 1-7 and 30 percent in years 8-10.

We Manage Call, meanwhile, did not fulfill its promise to build the first call center business on island when it was granted the certificate in February 2006.

The proposed business was earlier projected to bring a cash flow of $98 million over 10 years to the CNMI. It promised to employ up to 200 people of which 90 percent were local residents. Based on the same plan, it was to begin operations with 30 people in December 2005.

Though the business owners purchased the Nauru Building as the site for its call center business, they later postponed developments and preparation due to the minimum wage hike and the then-pending federalization of the CNMI.

Fitial OKs money for GTC; principal says it won't work

By KRISTI EATON
Kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Although Gov. Benigno R. Fitial has promised to use capitol improvement project money to repair the dilapidated buildings at GTC Elementary School, principal Charlotte Camacho said the money cannot be reallocated to the school.

Yesterday, Fitial told Camacho and representatives of the GTC Parents Teachers Association that he would give the school $536,500 from the $1.2 million Public School System CIP funding. GTC had originally just been given $66,000 of that $1.2 million.

"I just told them I'm going to give them $536,500," Fitial said.

But Camacho said the $1.2 million has already been distributed among the schools.

"The $1.2 million already belongs to PSS and has already been allocated to other projects, so in essence really we don't have the money," Camacho said.

Fitial said he would reprogram the CIP funding after the Northern Marianas Housing Corp. decided to divert grant funding from the school to a Koblerville soccer field.

Camacho said she met with PSS officials and was told that the $1.2 million cannot be reprogrammed to GTC. Besides, she added, even if was possible she would not want to take funding from other schools.

"Unfortunately, I am not going to advance my school at the cost of others. We are a team here," she said.

The $66,000 given to GTC is not enough for the necessary repairs, Camacho added.

Charles Reyes, press secretary for the Governor's Office, said it appears PSS and the Board of Education are hindering GTC from obtaining the necessary repairs. The governor is willing to reprogram the money and the Department of the Interior should be fine with the reprogramming, he said.

"The question now is whether PSS will go along with it. It seems to me there might be a reluctance on the part of the Board," Reyes said.

As long as the money has not been spent then it is still available, the press secretary said.

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Dr. Lo will be in Saipan beginning February 16, 2009 for one week.
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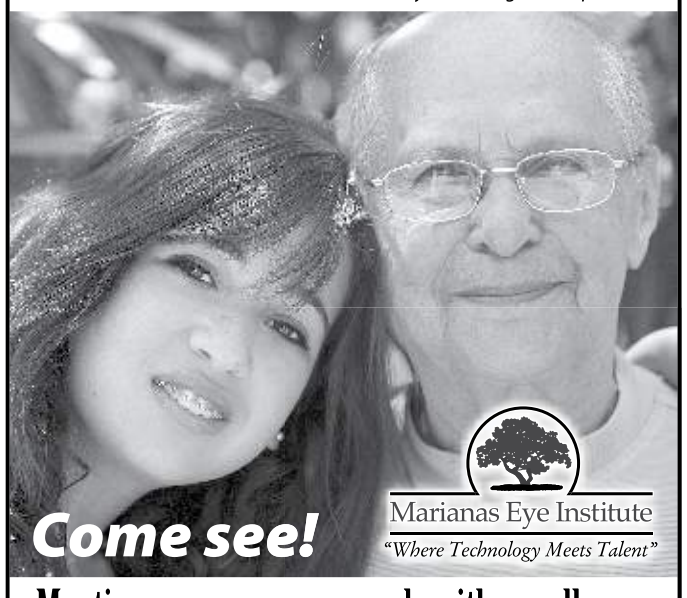

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REPORT

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$2.034 billion since 2004.

The economy is expected to worsen in 2009, with the Marianas Visitors Authority projecting $339 million in lost tourism revenue each year due to federalization, flight reductions and a drop in tourism arrivals.

Saipan garment factory closures resulted in a 68 percent drop in the value of garment exports, reaching only $98.21 million in 2008 from $307.57 million the previous year. With the planned closure of the two remaining factories early this year, the CNMI will have virtually no garment income to speak of by the end of the year. Saipan used to have over 30 factories.

These figures are based on the report on the quarterly economic indicators "depicting the social and economic conditions" of the CNMI, according to Commerce Secretary Michael J. Ada.

Grim numbers

Visitor arrivals slightly went up by 2 percent to 397,271 in 2008 versus 389,261 in 2007. Prior years posted arrivals of over 435,000. MVA projects a drastic drop in arrivals in 2009 with the exclusion of Chinese and Russian tourists from the federal visa waiver program by June 1, reduction of flights from Japan, and a slowdown in Korean arrivals.

Due to the exodus of foreign workers, overseas remittances reached only $76.8 million in 2008, an 18-percent drop from the $93.6 million recorded the previous year. Quarterly remittances went below $20 million for the first time in the last three quarters of 2008.

There were only 966 new cars, vans, trucks and sport utility vehicles sold in 2008, a 12-percent drop from the 1,101 units sold in 2007. Annual vehicle sales reached 1,992 between 2004 and 2006.

The volume of imports, or goods brought to the CNMI like fuel, food items and construction materials reached only 356,350 tons in 2008 compared to 439,440 tons in 2007. Imports reached over 540,000 tons between 2004 and 2006.

Average hotel daily room rate rose by 5.62 percentage points—from $92.12 in 2007 to $97.74 in 2008, but average occupancy rose only by 3 percentage points to 61.89 percent. Despite the slight increase from the previous year, the average hotel occupancy was still way below the average profitability threshold of 70 percent.

The number of telephone lines stood at 30,458 in 2008 after faring below the 30,000-mark the previous year, at 28,963.

Banks saw a 15-percent drop in deposits—from $531.20 million in December 2007 to only $450.60 million in December 2008. Loans also dropped by 13 percent, reaching only $141.25 million in December 2008 compared to the previous year. Loan-to-deposit ratio was at 31.3 percent in 2008 versus the previous year's 30.4 percent.

Of all the economic indicators, only the value of building construction and renovation went up significantly—from only $16.23 million in 2007 to $44 million in 2008. Despite this, a lot of newly built and old commercial buildings on Saipan stand empty.

Govt spending exceeds income

All major economic indicators in the Commerce report covered calendar year 2008 except for government spending and income, which covered fiscal year 2008.

Government expenditures reached $172.23 million in FY 2008, while general fund revenue or government collections from taxes and fees stood at only $162.758 million during the same period.

Moreover, government spending in FY 2008 marked a 5.8-percent increase over the $162.76 million posted in FY 2007.

The FY 2008 collection marked a slight drop from the FY 2007 collection of $163.03 million. Included in the taxes and fees collected by the government are business gross receipt, wage and salary, excise, garment certification and hotel occupancy.

FYs 2007 and 2008 expenditures and income do not include suspended employer contributions to the NMI Retirement Fund.

The CNMI will lose $339 million in annual tourism revenue with the exclusion of Chinese and Russian tourists from the federal visa waiver program, Northwest Airlines' impending reduction of flights, and the continued dip in visitor arrivals from Korea, according to Marianas Visitors Authority projections.

FITIAL

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Committee used the proportionate reduction as a model for the revised budget of $156.76 million, which included $148 million in local revenue collections.

But without austerity measures, Fitial said he will not approve the budget.

"We provided for austerity measures," he said yesterday during a news briefing. "We know the resources will continue to decline, so that's why we proposed those austerity measures to be part of the budget."

During the first quarter of fiscal year 2009, when the 5.5 percent budget cut was not in place, the government overspent by several million dollars, Finance Secretary Eloy Inos said. The expenditure rate was approximately $45 million for the first quarter, which, if left unchanged, would have reached $180 million by the end of the year.

"We need to bring that down," Inos said. "So we're saying, 'Let's do austerity measures so we can bring that down, such at the end of the year when you add all that, it's $148 million.'"

Asked if the administration would approve the budget if austerity legislation were later passed, Inos said, "We'll consider that. Until we see the content of that law it's very difficult to make any assumption at this point. We'll need to see."

One measure that has been discussed is reducing the government pay period to 64 hours, but that needs legislative approval, Inos said. Fitial has the authority to reduce the hours of contract workers, but not civil service employees.

"That needs legislation," Inos said. "That's what we mean by cost-cutting measures."

Fitial will advise the Legislature on what needs to be changed when he notifies the members of his decision to veto, Inos said. The governor must officially transmit his decision to the Legislature by Tuesday.

"Certainly, when the governor vetoes the bill he's going to make some recommendations, whether that be in the form of general policy issues or in the form of a draft legislation—it could go either way," he said.

It's the governor's prerogative to veto the budget, said Rep. Ray Yumul, chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, adding that once he gets the official notification he will meet with other members to decide what the next step should be. The Legislature could override the veto and pass legislation to meet the requests of the governor, he said. The House earlier failed to override the governor's veto of the first budget.

At this point, Yumul said, fiscal year 2010 budget deadlines are approaching and it may be better to focus on that. Individual government departments have already been submitting their 2010 budget requests. On April 1, the governor must submit his budget proposal for fiscal year 2010, which will begin Oct. 1.

"Basically, look at 2009 as an opportunity that came and went," Yumul said.

NMC'S

From Page 1

sembly. The submission of the report will be followed by a visit by commission representatives.

"Certainly the decision wasn't expected. But we're very positive and we're taking this challenge. We intend to complete all the necessary works, we will press on to continue the work to get our full accreditation…that's our goal and passion," said NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez yesterday.

Fernandez emphasized that during this extended show-cause period, the college remains fully accredited and credits are transferable.

She said NMC adequately addressed the four issues that were in the original show-cause notification, including student learning outcomes, implementation of employee evaluation process, funding for renovating and replacing aging buildings with ones that meet current and future needs of the college, and eligibility requirements, which NMC fulfilled by hiring key personnel and administrative staff.

Two concerns

Saipan Tribune learned that team recommendations 1 and 2, dealing with program review and assessment, were the "areas" cited for "immediate completion."

"We're notified that we need to do further work on these two recommendations. So I immediately sent an e-mail to Dr. [Barbara] Beno asking the commission's specific guidance on what are the remaining expectations of us," she said. "We want to make sure that we know exactly what is expected of us so we can complete the work."

Fernandez is confident that, with the work being done on the college's program review and assessment survey, they would be able to address the commission's remaining concerns.

Yesterday, the college released the results of a survey done by the office of institutional effectiveness and it is up for submission to the college management.

95-percent complete on requirements

Speaking before students and faculty members yesterday, Board of Regents chair Charles V. Cepeda asked for everyone's cooperation to complete the needed assignment.

"We're 95 percent complete in our accreditation requirements…we just need to look and find the very little amount of additional work and we're counting all your support and cooperation. We've done a lot of work and we're not going to close down…so we're asking everyone to become part of the leadership at NMC," he told the crowd during yesterday's assembly.

Cepeda said he personally sees the commission's decision as an accomplishment for the college, which has been struggling to fight for its accreditation for several years.

"It's not what we expected…but I've seen this as an accomplishment of what we've been trying to do for the past nine years," he told *Saipan Tribune*, adding that the board fully supports Fernandez's leadership in meeting the accreditation requirements.

Student Council president Ivan Mereb said student body organizations on campus will spread the word about the accreditation status.

"Yes, we're still on show-cause but it doesn't mean our institution is subject for termination," he said.

He pointed out that the increased enrollment this semester is testament to the continued support and trust of students in NMC.

For freshman nursing student Chanelle Mendiola, the college will remain an institution that she will forever be grateful to for fulfilling the dreams of many local students.

"I feel confident NMC will be fully accredited soon," she said, adding that students are witness to the many work done during the show-cause period.

Zayna Camacho, a business management student, believes that NMC will be in much greater shape and status after June 2009.

Tinian, Rota sites remain closed

Even if NMC gets full accreditation in June, instructional sites on Rota and Tinian will remain closed for academic programs, according to the college president.

"We will not be able to reopen the academic programs on two islands … until we are able to fully meet all the accreditation standards. It is very clear that reopening of these sites will require a tremendous amount of funding and, with the current financial state, we cannot sustain it," said Fernandez.

"It seemed to be clear that we don't have substantial or enough funding to be able to reopen our instructional sites in the very near future. But we're hoping to continue the process of evaluating the distance learning education for Rota and Tinian," she added.

At the main campus, the college is preparing for "further" cuts in its budget, putting academic services on the priority list, she said.

Due to declining government revenue, essential departments like NMC are not spared from the 5.5 percent cut.

Hopeful

Press secretary Charles Reyes Jr. said yesterday that the administration wants NMC to receive proper accreditation as soon as possible.

"The administration regrets that the show-cause status was extended but we are still hopeful that NMC will comply with all the requirements to meet full accreditation status," he said.

NMC was first placed on show-case status in January 2008. Show-case status is a severe sanction placed by the accrediting commission on a college, requiring the college to justify why its accreditation should not be terminated. The commission usually gives a college a year to comply with all requirements.

SAIPAN'S

From Page 1

birth and death of the once billion-dollar Saipan garment industry. The two remaining garment factories—from three dozens less than 10 years ago—are set to close soon.

"What's happening on Saipan is an extreme compressed version of what's happening elsewhere in the U.S. and the world; like a lab test of what globalization does for good and ill," American journalist Adam Yamaguchi said in his documentary.

Yamaguchi, along with fellow journalist Christine Huang, visited Saipan last year "to document the rise and sudden collapse of a tiny piece of America."

The documentary, which runs for 25 minutes and 7 seconds, can be accessed at http://current.com/users/Adam_Yamaguchi/all/0.htm.

Viewers are shown footages of World War II, Saipan's pristine beaches, the remaining garment factories, empty garment factories and empty buildings like the former La Fiesta Mall in San Roque, as well as interviews with government officials, former garment workers and local residents about their views and experiences about the collapse of the Sapan garment industry.

Richard Pierce, the governor's special assistant for trade relations and economic affairs, said the documentary is a fairly accurate depiction of Saipan, both old and current, and caters to the 20-30-year-old mainlanders by focusing on the "Made in the USA" label and the loss in American jobs as a result of the local industry.

"They were truthful in their introductions and plan to focus on the loss in this part of America to both global and federal forces outside our control," he said, adding that Yamaguchi, Huang and young indigenous citizens in the documentary "could easily grasp what others in federal and local government offices have had difficulty understanding."

"Saipan has lost so much, and will continue to lose more over time as a result of the demise of its once healthy apparel industry. Jobs are leaving in government and the private sector, in addition to the workers from the factories themselves," said Pierce.

Pierce, a former executive director of the Saipan Garment Manufacturers Association and one of those interviewed in the documentary, added that Yamaguchi posed a very good question in his conclusion: "Why a part of America can't even hang on to a few low paying jobs?"

He, however, said that Yamaguchi overlooked one important point in discussing prostitution in the CNMI. "That is, that the U.S. mainland, Hawaii, Guam and other American soil do not accommodate prostitution in their travel industry zones."

CUC to decide on Aggreko extension within month

By KRISTI EATON
kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A decision on whether to extend the $6 million Aggreko contract will come within the next 30 days, Commonwealth Utilities executive director Antonio Muña said yesterday.

Muña

The contract for the emergency generators expires in September. By the middle of June CUC must inform Aggreko if it wishes to extend the contract for six months. The utility agency has been renting the generators, which provide an additional 15 megawatts of power to the island, for $504,000 per month.

Within 30 days, Wallon Young, the newly hired deputy director for utilities systems rehabilitation, should be able to assess the current status of the engine rehabilitation and a recommendation will be made, Muña said.

Young, who recently arrived on island, was hired specifically to oversee the rehabilitation process. Yesterday he said it's not a matter of if the overhaul of the engines will be complete, but when.

"The rehabilitation work will be done. It's not a matter of will it be done. It just takes time to do it," he said, adding that it is a very tight timeline.

Young said there would be enough engines repaired by the time the Aggreko contract ends, but it's important to remember that power stations need adequate reserves if one or two of the major units go down for maintenance.

Young, who worked with CUC in 2007 as part of Quantum Pacific, said all the necessary elements to complete the work are in place this time around.

"There's quite a difference from now and 2007," he said. "It's like a perfect storm of things we have now that we didn't have in 2007. We have support from DOI [Department of the Interior]; we have funding; we have the support of all of you, especially from the governor. There's new management in CUC that I did not see in 2007. We have a very good crew to do the work."

CUC has $5.4 million from the DOI's Office of Insular Affairs to work on the repairs. Young said the money should be enough to repair three engines at Power Plant 1.

When asked on what the most challenging part of working at CUC is, Young said it's the procurement process.

"I believe it's the procurement of parts," he said. "That's the biggest challenge. I have mentioned this to the plant already. The procurement of parts seems to be more difficult than overhauling the engines. It's like pulling teeth."

Muña agreed that procuring parts in such an extreme situation where every day counts could be difficult.

"Under normal circumstances [the procurement regulations] might be applicable, but this event is extraordinary, and under extraordinary circumstances you need to take proper measures," Muña said, adding that that is where CUC's state of emergency comes in. Since August, the utility agency has been under a state of disaster emergency, which, among other things, allows CUC to bypass certain procurement regulations.

DLNR to revive only slaughterhouse on Saipan

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Land and Natural Resources is now working on reviving the only slaughterhouse on Saipan, according to DLNR Secretary Dr. Ike de la Cruz.

Henry S. Hofschneider, special assistant to the DLNR secretary, said yesterday the department leased out the slaughterhouse to a private entity, Seishin Farm Saipan Inc., on Feb. 19, 1999.

The private enterprise operated successfully for years after leasing the property from DLNR, supplying the local community and even Guam with fresh pork. When the demand for fresh pork decreased, coupled with U.S. Department of Agriculture's strict sanitary requirements, the businesses slowed down until it closed, leaving Saipan without a slaughterhouse for years, said Hofschneider.

The 15-year lease agreement is supposed to expire in 2019.

Hofschneider said the agreement has provisions on the termination of the deal and in this particular case, Seishin Farm Saipan Inc.'s unpaid lease and abandonment of the property are among the reasons for DLNR's plan to end the lease agreement. He said DLNR is working with the Attorney General's Office on the lease termination.

During a Wednesday press conference on the Feb. 11 to 12 Agricultural Summit, Cruz announced that the DLNR plans to terminate the lease agreement and restore the slaughterhouse.

"We're just about done with the cancellation of the lease agreement, and it will take additional two to three months before we take back possession of the slaughterhouse," he said.

Ramon B. Camacho, vice chair of the Saipan Municipal Council, said there's a demand for fresh pork, beef and other meat products in the local community. He said just like vegetables and fruits, fresh pork and other meat products can also be sold to the US military on Guam.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial said he supports the revival of the slaughterhouse on Saipan. He also disclosed another investor that plans to raise 20,000 pigs and plant root crops on Tinian to feed the pigs, and eventually operate a slaughterhouse on the island.

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BOE firm on stand, won't act on teacher rep issue

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The appointment of a teacher representative is far from being resolved after Board of Education chair Lucy Blanco-Maratita admitted yesterday that they won't take any action on the issue until the governor responds to their numerous letters discussing the long-delayed appointment of a qualified candidate.

"Until we get something official in writing from the governor, the board's position stands and the board likely won't take up the matter again," Blanco-Maratita told *Saipan Tribune*. "We've written several letters to governor on this issue but have not received any response yet…."

The position formerly occupied by Ambrose Bennett has been vacant since his term expired in January 2007.

Naming Bennett's successor was delayed due to different interpretations of the statute that requires a "collective bargaining agent" from the public school teachers.

Blanco-Maratita

The administration earlier said the law mandates the board and the PSS teachers to select a nominee from the collective bargaining agent of public school teachers.

However, it is the board's interpretation not to "meddle" in the appointment as the authority lies with the governor.

According to Association of Commonwealth Teachers president Betty Miller, the group is fully informed and aware of both the governor and board's positions regarding the appointment of a teacher rep.

"We have tried repeatedly in the past to work with both entities to understand the role teachers should play or the process required to garner an appointment of a teacher rep. Sadly, it appears the Governor's Office and the Board of Education are not in agreement on this matter," Miller told *Saipan Tribune*, adding that both entities are firmly entrenched in their views of the CNMI Constitution.

The ACT president admitted that they are not expecting a resolution soon.

"[With the situation] we do not anticipate an agreement will be reached between the two—BOE and governor—in the near future," she admitted.

Miller was being groomed by her association as its official candidate for the position. To select more candidates, it invited other possible nominees but no one came forward.

She said they are counting on lawmakers to draft a bill that would address the issue and have it placed on the ballot in the next election.

"We are hopeful such an amendment will make it clear to teachers and each entity involved exactly what their role should be in the process of determining a teacher rep to the BOE," Miller said.

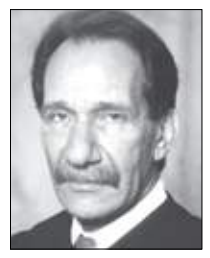
In the meantime, she said, ACT encourages teachers to remain informed and involved and will continue to send a representative to each BOE meeting to advocate on behalf of teachers or raise any concerns that come to their attention. She vows to continue to share information gathered at each meeting with ACT members and the public.

Woman in fake marriage gets two-month, 15-day sentence

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman has imposed a prison term of two months and 15 days on a woman who entered into a fake marriage in order for the supposed husband get an immigration status in the CNMI.

Wiseman sentenced Rebecca M. Camacho, also known as Rebecca C. Medrano, to two years in jail, all suspended, except for two months, for immigration fraud.


Wiseman

Wiseman also sentenced Camacho to six months in prison, all suspended except for 15 days, for obstructing justice.

Camacho, 35, was given credit for the time she has already served in jail.

The judge said the sentences shall run consecutively. This means the total prison term given to Camacho is two months and 15 days.

Camacho will be placed on probation and required to pay a $500 fine, plus court costs. She was further ordered to perform 40 hours of community service.

The Attorney General's Office charged Camacho with conspiracy to commit immigration fraud, immigration fraud, obstructing justice, and conspiracy to commit obstruction of justice.

Camacho and her lawyer, George Hasselback, entered into a plea deal with the government. She pleaded guilty to immigration fraud and obstructing justice. The remaining charges were dismissed.

According to the factual basis of the plea bargain, on March 16, 2004, Camacho, a U.S. citizen, unlawfully entered into a marriage with Leandro Medrano, a Filipino.

The purposes of the marriage were to procure Medrano's entry into the CNMI, his naturalization, and his permanent residency in the Commonwealth.

On July 29, 2008, Camacho provided false statements to Immigration investigator Erwin Flores, who was investigating the fake marriage.

Camacho's co-defendants—Ryan Ray Ilo and Zandra Arguelles, also known as Zandra Ilo, both pleaded guilty in December. Ryan Ilo pleaded guilty to one count of immigration fraud, while Arguelles pleaded guilty to two counts of document fraud.

Ryan Ilo was sentenced to two months in prison, while Arguelles was sentenced to two days.

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DEQ to sample Saipan's groundwater

The Division of Environmental Quality will be collecting water samples from groundwater wells on Saipan starting next week, Feb. 9. The sampling event will continue through the month of March 2009.

The purpose of the sampling is to evaluate the condition of groundwater around potential areas for public water supply sources.

"This sampling activity will provide new groundwater data that would assist DEQ to prioritize program actions to address any significant findings," said Ray Masga, branch manager for the Site Assessment and Remediation at DEQ. "Environmental and waste samples will be collected to determine what hazardous substances are released at the site."

The impacted locations include Koberville, As Lito, San Antonio, Susupe, Gualo Rai, Lower Base, and Kagman

Well owners and operators are advised to have a representative on standby to grant DEQ staff access to the well(s). For the safety of the DEQ sampling team, we advise that your well head be cleared of any object that may obstruct the access to your well. Also, loose dogs should be kept on a leash when DEQ comes to your facility.

"The sampling will be performed during regular government hours and it is helpful if well owners and operators provided access to the wells. Also, it would be useful if well owners and operators can advise DEQ if your well is currently active or not," said Jose Kaipat, manager for the Safe Drinking Water branch.

There are over 300 wells on Saipan that produce over 9 million gallons of water per day; of which 103 private and public water supply wells will be sampled during this sampling event. DEQ may be contacting your office if your well is in the list of wells to be sampled.

The groundwater evaluation study will conclude in March. For additional information about the groundwater sampling, contact 664-8500 or send an e-mail to raymasga@deq.gov.mp. ***(DEQ)***

BIRTHDAY SHOUT-OUT

Happy birthday to Kathleen Bocago Pastrana. "May God bless you with a wonderful day and many more birthdays to come. We love You." From the family!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

THIRD BIRTHDAY

"Happy 3rd birthday to our beautiful princess, Regina Frances T. Pangelinan. We love you and may God bless you with many more birthdays." Love, Daddy, Mommy, Reynee, Sabrina, Mark Jr. and Mommy Annie.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Small craft advisory in effect today

The Emergency Management Office said a small craft advisory for hazardous seas is in effect through early this morning as moderate to fresh trade winds and isolated showers are expected the next few days.

Based on the information from National Weather Service in Tiyan, Guam, combined seas of 10-11 feet yesterday should diminish to nine feet today. However, the high surf advisory will remain in effect until 6am today along north facing reefs.

Due to the rising seas and surf in our region, EMO is strongly advising the public—especially beachgoers, fishermen, tourists, swimmers, divers, and surfers—to avoid venturing near exposed reefs and beaches especially along north and west facing reefs. Rip currents can be life threatening to anyone entering the water.

EMO added that while there is high risk of rip currents through late last night, surf will be hazardous at 9-11 feet on north facing exposures today. The surf should fall below hazardous levels by early Friday.

It advised the public to stay away from exposed reefs and beaches, especially those facing north as rip currents will be life-threatening.

On Rota, north facing exposures include Teteto beach. On Saipan north facing exposures include Achugao beach.

Tonight, 15 KT northeast wind are expected to produce waves 4-6 feet north and swells 5 feet and 4 feet in the east. ***(EMO)***

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Labor's workload drops as workers leave

'But scrutiny of hiring of alien workers has increased'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Labor's overall workload on the alien workers' side dropped slightly in 2008 as the number of foreign workers present in the CNMI went down.

But Labor's scrutiny of each proposed employment of a foreign worker has increased substantially, according to Labor Secretary Gil M. San Nicolas and Labor Deputy Secretary Cinta M. Kaipat in a report to the Legislature.

The scrutiny, San Nicolas and Kaipat said, has led to more denials of employment applications and more Labor denial hearings.

Kaipat

The Fiscal Year 2009 budget has cut Labor's full-time personnel to 46 (from 85 in 2006). The budget has also cut funding for other expenses by 25 percent over the 2006 level.

The two Labor officials said that, as of Dec. 31, 2008, Labor had issued 22,917 work permits in the foreign worker immigration category.

San Nicolas and Kaipat pointed out that the department counts only its administrative operations; it does not conduct any census of alien workers actually present in the CNMI.

They said the number of permits issued is greater than the number of workers present in the Commonwealth at any given point in a typical year because some permit actions are contract amendments or extensions and affect a single worker.

The officials said some permit holders elect to leave the CNMI during the year for personal or employment reasons, while employers implement reductions in force and cancel "issued" permits for some of their workers.

San Nicolas and Kaipat said some employers close their businesses entirely and Labor cancels their "issued" permits.

There are reportedly 37 alien workers who do not hold permits but have temporary work authorizations. Seventy foreign workers do not hold permits, but have memoranda authorizing them to seek work while their labor cases are pending.

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Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

February 6, 2001

Teno orders agencies: 'Observe overtime restrictions'

Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio directed all CNMI government agencies to strictly observe cost-cutting measures implemented in financial year 1998, following the recent discovery of excessive amounts of Compensatory Time Off. Compensatory Time Off comes in a form of leave-with-pay made to government employees for work rendered beyond the legally-allowed 80-hour per pay period. In a memorandum issued Feb. 2, 2001 to all department and activity heads, Mr. Tenorio sounded the alarm against possible abuse by some government employees of their eligibility to work beyond the 80-hour per pay period despite existing restrictions on overtime work.

Saipan waters claim another life

What started out as an afternoon of refreshing water sports turned out to be a traumatic experience for a Japanese tourist and death for her companion. Exactly a fortnight after local hero Galileo "Kaily" Torwal died to save a Japanese couple from a tragic parasailing adventure, another pair of Japanese tourists fell prey to a freak diving accident at the Grotto Saturday. While the female tourist only sustained minor cuts and scrapes on both elbows, her male companion, Akihisa Takeda, 44, was pronounced dead an hour after rescuers recovered his body from the water.

February 6, 2002

Test: Students with pre-school background are better readers

The Public School System has stumbled upon hard evidence that bared the benefits of pre-school programs—Kindergarten and Headstart—among incoming first graders. Results of the first Reading Diagnostic Test conducted on public school first grade students, in part, revealed data that showed students who attended Kindergarten did significantly better than students who had no prior schooling. Children who went to Headstart, likewise, did significantly better than students without a pre-schooling experience, records showed. More than 800 PSS first graders took the individually-administered Reading Diagnostic Assessment in the beginning of the school year, as part of the PSS' Accountability Plan.

Legislator: Review local workforce requirement

Are private companies in the CNMI conforming with the 20-percent requirement in hiring local workers? That is a question that Rep. Martin B. Ada wants answered, even as he batted for the increased employment of the local population. The 20-percent requirement makes it mandatory for private companies to ensure that at least 20 percent of their workforce is composed of local workers. In yesterday's session at the House of Representatives, Ada related that a number of lawmakers have been flooded lately by unemployed locals who are seeking their help to find jobs in the private sector.

February 6, 2003

Old dump closes next week

The scheduled completion and opening of the Marpi landfill would not happen this Friday, but the Babauta administration disclosed yesterday this would take place early next week, possibly Tuesday or Wednesday. The closure of the Puerto Rico dumpsite takes effect on the same day. As this developed, the Division of Environmental Quality indicated it would grant the landfill a solid waste permit this week. DEQ public information specialist Rebecca Snider said the landfill permit application filed by the Department of Public Works has been deemed complete. Yesterday afternoon, CNMI Press Secretary Pete Callaghan said the slight delay was due to the discovery of a leak in the facility's liner. High-density polyethylene liners were installed as landfill covering to prevent leachate from seeping into the ground. "When they tested the liners, they found a slight leak," Callaghan said. "As far as the opening [of the landfill is concerned], it will be delayed until next week." He said DPW's contractors had asked for additional days to extend the deadline from February 7.

War talks sending tourism jitters

With Hotel Nikko Saipan posting an occupancy rating of about 80-90 percent at the start of 2003, its new president and chief executive officer is optimistic that the surge in tourist traffic in the CNMI could be sustained, barring a war in Iraq. Shinji Nakamura, who took over as the hotel's GM in July last year, said that, despite Japan's depressed economy, the Japanese are going to continue traveling outside the country for vacations and tours, which he claims is good for the CNMI. "The Japanese people will continue to go abroad. And Saipan still has very, very strong attractions as a tourist destination," Nakamura said. "I think that, compared to last year, this year, maybe we can foresee better business results."

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Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
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EDITORIAL

Iraq's winning vote

Iraq's first postwar election four years ago was mostly a procedural victory: Iraqis sent a message to the world by turning out en masse despite intimidation from al-Qaida and the pervasive threat of violence. Last weekend's vote, which occurred during one of the calmest periods Iraq has experienced since the U.S. invasion, was a political triumph. Though results are still preliminary, they show that voters strongly rewarded Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki for his forceful action against extremist militias and his secular nationalist agenda—and punished religious parties perceived as too sectarian or too close to Iran. The nonsectarian alliance of former Prime Minister Ayad Allawi also appears to have done well, and nationalist Sunnis gained influence in areas where they had lacked it because of previous election boycotts. In short, Iraq appears to have taken a step toward becoming the moderate Arab democracy that the Bush administration long hoped for.

The big winner in Iraq's first elections four years ago was the Islamic Supreme Council of Iraq, a Shiite movement with its own militia that was backed by Grand Ayatollah Ali Sistani and that maintained close links with Iran. The party favored splitting off Iraq's Shiite provinces into a separate region, and some of its leaders were deeply involved in sectarian warfare against Sunnis. That record appears to have been decisively rejected in last weekend's vote: Mr. Maliki's State of Law ticket appears to have finished first in Baghdad, in the southern port of Basra and in every southern province but one. Candidates backed by Moqtada al-Sadr, whose Iranian-backed militia was trounced by the Iraqi army last year, did well in places, but not well enough to restore his former influence.

Some results remain unclear and may bring trouble. Sunni tribesmen who led the fight against al-Qaida in Anbar province threatened to go to war if the results showed them second to the rival Iraqi Islamic Party, and authorities promised an investigation of possible fraud there. Overall turnout, at 51 percent, was lower than authorities hoped for, perhaps partly because of the displacement of many citizens in Baghdad and Anbar. But in Nineveh province, home of the important city of Mosul, Sunni nationalists will probably take over the local government, which may defuse one of the last centers of the insurgency.

Oddly, the biggest beneficiary of the election other than Mr. Maliki may be President Obama, who has been a skeptic both of progress in Iraq and the value of elections in unstable states. Mr. Obama acknowledged on Monday that "Iraqis just had a very significant election with no significant violence" and called that "good news"—but only in the sense that it could justify withdrawing "a substantial number" of U.S. troops this year. While such a drawdown is certainly a desirable goal, the president would do well to recognize, value and exploit the very real political progress Iraq has made—and to be careful not to undercut it by acting too quickly on his exit strategy.

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Out of step on immigration

By IRA MEHLMAN
Special to the Los Angeles Times

Mehlman is media director of the Federation for Immigration Reform's Los Angeles office.

On the eve of the inaugural, a coalition of Hispanic organizations gathered to lay out their priorities for the Obama administration. At the top of their list was immigration: amnesty for the estimated 13 million illegal aliens living in the United States and still higher levels of government-mandated immigration.

These professional ethnic-interest advocates came to Washington touting that Hispanic voters favored Barack Obama over John McCain by a better than 2-1 margin and "to settle debts accrued during the campaign season," according to an article on The New York Times Web site. But aside from the fact that Obama would have coasted to victory even without his sizable advantage among Hispanic voters, this coalition managed to overlook one other important detail: More immigration is not what Hispanic voters want.

The Pew Hispanic Center, a respected Washington think tank, took the trouble to ask Latinos what issues they considered to be "extremely important." For 57 percent of the respondents to its poll, released just before the inauguration, the economy was the most important issue. Close behind were education and health care. Rounding out the top five were national security and the environment.

> *I anticipate a dramatic shift in power toward heavily Latino parts of the United States" after the next census, said Simon Rosenberg, director of the New Democratic Network, an advocacy group that is pro-amnesty. "Remember: In redistricting, we count people, not citizens.*

Although the groups purporting to represent the interests of Hispanics in the U.S. have set amnesty for illegal aliens and higher levels of immigration as their No. 1 priority, immigration ranks only sixth among the concerns of ordinary Hispanics. Fewer than one in three Hispanics in the U.S. surveyed, 31 percent, rated immigration as an extremely important issue.

And of the five issues Hispanics rated as their highest priorities for President Obama to address, all of them would be made more difficult by amnesty and higher levels of immigration.

■ The economy. With the economy shedding jobs at a rate of half a million a month, legalizing 13 million illegal aliens and adding to the already record levels of government-mandated immigration would be like dousing a flame with gasoline.

■ Education. The schools attended by predominantly Hispanic students are affected the most by immigration. In 2004, about 44 percent of the students attending the Los Angeles public school system were classified as "limited English proficient," according to the latest district information available. Nationwide, the 2006 dropout rate among Hispanics in the U.S. was 22 percent—double the rate for black students and quadruple that of whites.

■ Health care. Immigrants and their U.S.-born children accounted for 71 percent of the increase in the medically uninsured population between 1989 and 2007, according to the Center for Immigration Studies. In all, 34 percent of immigrant households lack basic health insurance, compared with 13 percent of the native-born population.

■ National security. America's already dysfunctional system for processing immigration could not possibly handle the tens of millions of amnesty applications they would likely receive. As in the much smaller amnesty of 1986, the government likely would resort to rubber-stamping applications without conducting adequate background checks.

■ The environment. The Census Bureau projects that at current immigration levels, the U.S. population will grow by 135 million people over the next 40 years. An amnesty, coupled with higher immigration levels, would surely send us over the half-a-billion mark by midcentury, effectively dooming all environmental initiatives.

The agenda being pressed by the ethnic-interest and immigration advocacy groups has nothing to do with the concerns or well-being of U.S. Hispanics. Rather, in direct contrast to President Obama's inaugural declaration "that the lines of tribe shall soon dissolve," it is about raw political power.

"I anticipate a dramatic shift in power toward heavily Latino parts of the United States" after the next census, said Simon Rosenberg, director of the New Democratic Network, an advocacy group that is pro-amnesty. "Remember: In redistricting, we count people, not citizens."

Throughout the campaign and standing on the west portico of the Capitol, Obama has sought to inspire the nation toward a common purpose. Americans of all racial and ethnic backgrounds are prepared to answer his call. Whether on immigration or countless other issues, the nation is hungry for a leader who demonstrates through action that his only debt is to the American people.

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

The betel nut bikini team?

By ED STEPHENS

Ed is a pilot, economist, and writer. He holds a degree in economics from UCLA and is a former U.S. naval officer. His column runs every Friday. Visit Ed at TropicalEd.com and SaipanBlog.com.

If there is one association that has an air of permanence, it's "Saipan" and "betel nut." True, betel nut doesn't necessarily conjure up images of glamour, at least in my mind. And packaging-wise, it's a usually a utilitarian proposition, it seems to get the uneasy, semi-vice treatment in a dingy plastic bag instead of hype and slickness.

Contrast that with beer, which is often marketed in ads featuring scantily clad beauties frolicking on a beach. I've seen posters for Japanese beers (a beauty in a bikini holding the product) that look like they were shot On Saipan.

And, on the U.S. side of things, in 1991 a TV campaign for Old Milwaukee beer featured the gratuitous gyrations of the "Swedish Bikini Team," and became a cult hit. They pulled the ads because they were regarded as controversial. You can Google it and, well, there it is.

Still, how on earth can we associate sexiness with beer? A flabby booze-paunch is more a tribute to entropy, and gravity, than to animal magnetism. But the happy, sexy associations are fabricated in more subtle ways; we often see beer depicted at parties (logical enough), and we see attractive people depicted at the parties (also logical enough, depending on who you're partying with), and, presto, we associate beauty and the booze. OK, maybe that's not so subtle.

Moving up the scale from beer, some liquor likes to play the elegant sex card. There's the pretty lady in the slinky dress, with the come hither look burning in her eyes, giving you the once over, and smiling because she recognizes your sophisticated taste in V.S.O.P. Well, all that stuff tastes like paint thinner to me, so I can't claim to be a legitimate member of their target market.

But even if I liked the stuff, I don't think that peroxide blondes in silly dresses would have me opening my wallet. But maybe the big idea is that some dark corner of my psyche would subconsciously create a desire for the product, based on the association presented in an advertisement.

While we're pondering vices, I have to mention cigarettes. Ah, cigarettes. They're advertised with, yes, sexy images. I'm not complaining about it, but it strikes me as a really goofy association. This one totally escapes me. I can follow the beer = party = sexy girls equation, it's called "college," but the emphysema = lust formula leaves me drawing a blank. Maybe they should make ashtray flavored mouthwash, too, so you can capture the thrill of kissing your lover when she's away in respiratory therapy.

Have you noticed that betel nut is getting short shrift? No sexy product campaigns. It's not fair. Where's the sexy lady in high heels? I'll tell you where: Taiwan.

Yes, Taiwan has plenty betel nut, and they're not shy about putting some rally sexy sizzle on the sales. Saucy babes in roadside stands wiggle to and from cars and trucks, vending their betel nut. The first few times I saw this scene, it was just a blur from a car. Fortunately I wound up in some heavy traffic, and was able to observe this commerce from a more stable perspective.

I thought it was delightfully tacky, but I'm sure it would cause many folks from my old hometown to either double up on their meds or vent their spleens in righteous bouts of anger, though these are not mutually exclusive alternatives.

Anyway, for all of Saipan's sometimes racy reputation for tropical romance, I think Taiwan has stolen our thunder when it comes to the almighty betel nut.

Now if you'll excuse me, I've got to run out for a snifter of V.S.O.P. I'll do that on my cigarette break when I'm picking up some beer, and, of course, a bag of betel nut. I don't know why I have these cravings.

Push-button warfare

By P.W. SINGER
Special to the Los Angeles Times

Singer is director of the 21st Century Defense Initiative at the Brookings Institution and the author of Wired for War: The Robotics Revolution and Conflict in the 21st Century."

America has a new corps of warriors fighting on its behalf. They have saved thousands of lives, defusing hundreds of bombs and improvised explosive devices (IEDs) in Iraq and taking out scores of terrorist leaders hiding in Afghanistan and Pakistan, including most recently two key al-Qaida leaders. But they also have no pulse and have killed at least three people who the United States thought were Osama bin Laden, but who turned out not to be.

Science fiction is coming true on our battlefields. The U.S. military went into Iraq with just a handful of robotic drones in the air and zero unmanned systems on the ground, none of them armed. Today there are more than 5,300 drones in the U.S. inventory and about another 12,000 on the ground. These are just the first generation, the Model T Fords, compared with what is coming next. And, yes, the tech industry term of "killer application" doesn't just describe what iPods did to the music industry. The prototypes of the next generation of unmanned systems don't just pack a lethal armory of missiles, rockets and machine guns, they make more and more of their own decisions, such as taking out targets on their own.

In all the tumult over a new president and a crashing economy, it is easy to miss that something big is going on today in the overall history of war, and even humanity.

A robotics revolution is at hand. But it is not the type in which you need worry about the governor of California showing up at your door a la "The Terminator." Instead, when historians look back at this period, they probably will conclude that we are living at the start of the greatest revolution in warfare since the introduction of atomic bombs, maybe even bigger. Our new, unmanned systems don't just affect the "how" of fighting wars, but they are also starting to change the "who" of the fighting at the most fundamental level.

Although robots are proving to be valuable in moving scores of U.S. soldiers out of danger, this revolution is not turning out to be the easy, clean triumph of technology over humanity. The age-old fog of war isn't being lifted by technology, as the acolytes of former U.S. Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld once said would happen. We are gaining amazing capabilities but also experiencing new confusions and facing complex dilemmas.

For instance, the U.S. has carried out 38 officially reported drone strikes into Pakistan over just the last five months, seeking terrorist camps and hiding sites. It is a remarkable capability that can destroy a hidden, implacable enemy without putting U.S. soldiers' lives at risk. But the unmanned strikes across a state border also have created an issue that Pakistani Prime Minister Yusaf Raza Gillani describes as the biggest problem in relations between our countries, highlighted by the recent strikes that killed a reported 22 people.

In the long term, robots even affect the very human "war of ideas" so crucial to winning the fight against radical movements. What is the message we are sending with our "unmanning" of war, compared to how it is being received by people around the world?

Some people, such as one senior U.S. State Department official I interviewed, believe that it all "plays to our strength. The thing that scares people is our technology." But when you speak with people in Lebanon, for instance, many share the feelings of a leading news editor there who described the growing use of unmanned systems as "just another sign of coldhearted, cruel Israelis and Americans, who are also cowards because they send out machines to fight us. ... They don't want to fight us like real men. ... So we just have to kill a few of their soldiers to defeat them." Or, as one American military analyst put it, "The optics of the situation could look really freaking bad. It makes us look like the evil Empire (from `Star Wars') and the other guys like the Rebel Alliance, defending themselves versus robot invaders."

But the diplomatic issues of robotics are even more complex. How do 20th century international laws of war apportion accountability with our 21st century technologies? Who is held to task when a machine mistakenly hits the wrong target? The commander, the programmer, the inventor? And, again, these attacks today are with the early versions of unmanned systems. What of the next generation being developed? Of course, one scientist working for the Pentagon whom I interviewed answered that he could see no legal or ethical problem unless the machine kills the wrong people repeatedly. "Then it is just a product-recall issue."

Our wars remain driven by human failings, and even the most sophisticated fighting machines aren't going to replace humans any time soon. But that doesn't mean we will be able to avoid the science-reality of technology such as warrior-robots or the science-fiction-like dilemmas that will bring to our battlefields. The future is upon us.

Letters to the Editor

False identity

Recent letters to the editor signed by "Lee Anderson" bear a striking resemblance to the style and content of an old man from Tanapag, "Holani Smith." Both appear to be intent on a political agenda trying to obtain a Waco project somewhere in Marpi with the Administration. That's okay, everyone is entitled to a political opinion and for his survival. But both want to hide behind a false name to spew their attacks against me, Rep. Tina Sablan and Rep. Diego Benavente. If you have a beef, Lee, just come on out of your little closet and be a man. Own up to your opinions. Be a proud Pichi-Pachi, not a cowardly crackpot. Try using your true name, it won't hurt…much.

I'll be happy to answer your groundless and ridiculous accusations, but only when you are man enough to ask as a person, not as a rodent hiding under the septic pipe. Just some friendly advice from someone "cabilosu aka Prebahao." Now what would Governor Fitial feel if he knew that to this date, you haven't been a voter of any election since 1997.

Rep Stanley McGinnis Torres
16th Legislature

Good luck!

For those individuals who are intending to seek a seat in this coming general election, I would like to wish you all the best of Luck. However, this is going to be a very challenging opportunity, especially for those who are willing to serve. It is very important to be that person who has the initiative to fulfill what needs to be fulfilled. We the people are expecting bigger changes in the Commonwealth so please be that change, for we want what's best. For the past three years, we felt the sufferings and hardships such as high fuel prices, high grocery prices, and higher taxes and, guess what, the salaries were cut and also the austerity holiday was implemented. This shouldn't be happening because we are not living to suffer. Many of the local islanders want to return back to their island but that's impossible because it gets more complicated. For those who have made plans to run, we are counting on you as new leaders and new changes. Once again, I wish you all the best of luck and hope for the best!

Abigail Manglona
Guam

Relief for sore eyes

Thank you, thank you, thank you to everyone responsible for removing vendor graffiti from the front of retail stores! For years we have been subjected to so much visual pollution that it almost became acceptable. Fortunately it is all gone. What a relief. Overnight, the island became visually more attractive for our visitors and most importantly our community. As a matter of fact, I became so uses to these eyesores that when I drove past the stores on Capital Hill recently, I mistakenly thought that they had closed down. Thank you for the wonderful improvement. Biba paradise. Biba the CNMI.

Jerry Facey
Via fax

Kudos to Zoning Office

This shout out of thanks goes to Steve Tilley and the team who are cleaning up our island by enforcing the new zoning law which has stores all across the island removing unauthorized signs and advertisements. This seemingly small act of 'clean up' is making a noticeable impact in our villages.

Keep up the good work guys.

Laura Brown
Kagman III, Saipan

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°

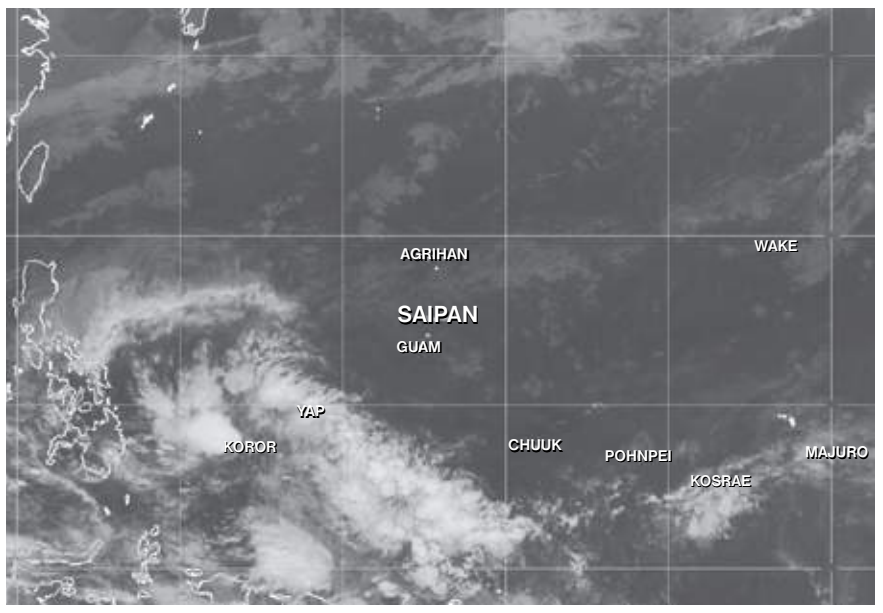
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Sunny	▲83	▼74
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼78
Yap	Showers	▲88	▼76
Chuuk	Showers	▲89	▼78
Pohnpei	Showers	▲85	▼79
Kosrae	Showers	▲87	▼78
Majuro	Rain	▲83	▼79

Around The Globe

Auckland	Cloudy	▲75	▼68
Beijing	Partly Sunny	▲50	▼33
Hong Kong	Sunny	▲75	▼64
Honolulu	Cloudy	▲78	▼69
London	Rain/Snow	▲39	▼36
Los Angeles	Rain	▲62	▼50
Manila	Rain	▲84	▼73
Melbourne	Sunny	▲92	▼82
Miami	Cloudy	▲67	▼57
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲36	▼29
Osaka	Cloudy	▲42	▼31
Paris	Rain	▲40	▼30
Pusan	Cloudy	▲54	▼38
Rome	Thunderstorms	▲60	▼52
Salem	Showers	▲51	▼35
San Francisco	Rain	▲57	▼46
Seoul	Cloudy	▲45	▼29
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	▲46	▼32
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲41	▼31

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00AM, THURSDAY, FEB. 5, 2009
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A diffuse shear line extends southwestward from 25N175E to 16N145E near Anatahan to beyond 130E at 13N. Cloudiness and patchy rain are found up to 200 miles to the north of the shear line between 148E and 155E and between 160E and 175E. A near-equatorial trough extends eastward from 3N130E through a circulation centered southeast of Koror at 3N137E then southeastward to end at EQ145E. Numerous showers and isolated thunderstorms associated with the trough and circulation are occurring over Yap and Koror within 200 miles of a line extending southeastward from 10N135E to EQ145E. Trade-wind convergence is generating scattered showers over Kosrae and the Marshall Islands within 150 miles of a line extending northeastward from 2N162E to 7N172E then eastward to 7N180.

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
6:14 AM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
10:39 AM Today	Low Tide:	1.4 Feet
3:34 PM Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
11:31 PM Today	Low Tide:	0.5 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:45 AM	6:17 PM
Saturday	6:45 AM	6:18 PM
Sunday	6:44 AM	6:18 PM
Monday	6:44 AM	6:19 PM
Tuesday	6:44 AM	6:19 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	2:42 PM	3:15 AM
Saturday	3:49 PM	4:17 AM
Sunday	4:55 PM	5:15 AM
Monday	5:59 PM	6:08 AM
Tuesday	6:59 PM	6:55 AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 1, 2009

DEPARTURES

Saipan-Rota			
CO9597	11:50am	12:25pm	1,7
Saipan-Guam			
CO9317	5:00am	5:50am	Daily
CO9313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
CO9597	11:50am	1:20pm	1,7 via Rota
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	2,3,4,5,6
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily
Saipan-Narita			
NW 099	5:00am	7:35am	Daily
NW 078	8:20am	1:30pm	2,3,4,5,6,7
NW 075	4:55pm	7:30pm	Daily
Guam-Narita			
NW 73	4:10pm	7:00pm	Daily
NW 81	3:55pm	6:55pm	Daily
Saipan-Osaka			
OZ 119	4:00am	6:40am	1,4,6
NW 083	4:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
Guam-Osaka			
NW 79	4:45pm	7:35pm	Daily
Saipan-Nagoya			
NW 078	8:20am	11:05am	Daily
Guam-Nagoya			
NW 23	4:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
Saipan-Incheon			
OZ 604	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ 604	2:40am	6:30am	2,3,4,5,6,7
OZ 119	4:00am	11:25am	1,4,6 via Osaka
OZ 606	3:20pm	7:00pm	Daily
Saipan-Busan			
OZ 608	3:20am	6:50am	1,4,5,7
Saipan-Shanghai			
FM 844	2:50am	5:40am	2,6
Rota-Guam			
CO 9597	12:50pm	1:20pm	1,7
Guam-Palau			
CO 953	7:40pm	8:40pm	1,7
CO 893	5:50pm	6:50pm	3,5
Palau-Manila			
CO 893	7:35pm	9:10pm	3,5
Guam-Manila			
CO 893	5:50pm	9:10pm	3,5 via Koror
CO 933	8:00pm	9:40pm	Daily
PR 111	6:00am	7:50am	1,2,4,6,7
Nagoya-Manila			
NW 71	8:40pm	11:55pm	Daily
Incheon-Hongkong			
OZ 721	9:20am	12:00pm	Daily
OZ 723	7:45pm	10:35pm	Daily
OZ 7173	8:00pm	10:50pm	5,7
Narita-Manila			
NW 1	7:00pm	10:55pm	Daily

ARRIVALS

Rota-Saipan			
CO 9598	3:25am	4:00am	5,6
Guam-Saipan			
CO 9316	2:30am	3:20am	1,2,3,4,7
CO9598	2:30am	4:00am	5,6 via Rota
CO9596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
CO9600	10:20am	11:10am	Daily
CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	Daily
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily
Narita-Saipan			
NW 076	10:15am	2:40pm	Daily
NW 077	6:25pm	1:20am+1	2,3,4,5,6,7
NW 100	8:45pm	1:10am+1	Daily
Narita-Guam			
NW 74	9:45am	2:20pm	Daily
NW 82	10:30am	3:10pm	Daily
Osaka-Saipan			
OZ 120	9:50pm	2:20am+1	3,5,7
NW 084	10:40am	3:05pm	Daily
Osaka-Guam			
NW 80	10:30am	3:00pm	Daily
Nagoya-Saipan			
NW 077	9:00pm	1:20am+1	Daily
Nagoya-Guam			
NW 24	10:00am	2:30pm	Daily
Incheon-Saipan			
OZ 605	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ 603	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ 120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	3,5,7 via Osaka
OZ 603	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1,2,3,4,5,6
Busan-Saipan			
OZ 607	9:00pm	2:10am+1	3,4,6,7
Shanghai-Saipan			
FM 843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1,5
Guam-Rota			
CO 9598	2:30am	3:00am	5,6
Palau-Guam			
CO 954	2:30am	5:25am	1,2
CO 892	2:35am	5:30am	4,6
Manila-Palau			
CO 892	10:10pm	1:50am+1	3,5
Manila-Guam			
CO 892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	3,5 via Koror
CO 934	11:10pm	4:40am+1	Daily
PR 110	10:10pm	4:00am+1	1,3,5,6,7
Manila-Nagoya			
NW 72	6:30am	11:05am	Daily
Hongkong-Incheon			
OZ 724	12:30am	4:50am	Daily
OZ 7183	12:45am	5:05am	1,4,6
OZ 722	1:30pm	5:45pm	Daily
Manila-Narita			
NW 2	7:45am	12:40pm	Daily

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

UMDA demands hidden 'trustees' to step forward

The United Micronesia Development Association has asked Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja of the Superior Court for the Northern Mariana Islands to compel two defendants to provide evidence and appear in court on Saipan in UMDA's ongoing multi-million dollar lawsuit against Robert Pfaff, John Larson, and their associates, shell companies, and offshore trusts.

"UMDA has been trying for months to get information and evidence on these mysterious off-shore entities and we are hopeful that the court will put an end to this run around," said UMDA CEO and president Russ Snow. "We have settled with some of the defendants and we are anxious to get this matter resolved as soon as possible through a trial on Saipan. The hundreds of UMDA shareholders and the people of the CNMI have waited long enough to bring Mr. Pfaff and his associates to justice."

UMDA

On Feb. 3, UMDA attorneys filed a request for an evidentiary hearing on a preliminary injunction motion brought by defendants Rothschild Trust Guernsey Limited and Davina Limited. According to the filing, "Given Rothschild's and Davina's dearth of evidence to date, the court can properly order them to submit to an evidentiary hearing and adduce evidence supporting both the alleged merits of their claims and any alleged irreparable harm. This would force Rothschild and Davina—two offshore entities which are apparently acting for undisclosed principals or beneficiaries—to disclose who they are fronting for (and who is behind d efendant Concorde Trust, of which Rothschild is the trustee). UMDA believes they are fronting for defendants Robert Pfaff, John Larson and/or David Amir Makov—but so far Rothschild and Davina (as well as other "trust" defendants) have managed to conceal their principals and beneficiaries by wrongly refusing to produce any documents (which UMDA has been seeking for more than a year)."

Pfaff, Larson and Mavkov were convicted of multiple counts of tax fraud and are scheduled to be sentenced in New York in March.

UMDA chairman Jose Lifoifoi said, "It's no surprise to me that these offshore entities would want to hide the fact that they are fronting for convicted criminals like Pfaff, Larson and Makov. But they can't have it both ways—if they want to try to stop us from completing a lawful settlement with other defendants, they need to be in court telling us why. The fact is that they know that they have no claim to over $1 million in settlement money that rightfully belongs to UMDA and that there is no evidence that any harm would be done to them by a payout. This preliminary injunction motion is just another transparent attempt by defendants to delay the proceeding and distract attention from their illegal action and damage to UMDA."

Lifoifoi concluded, "At this point, we're calling defendants' bluff. Where is the evidence for this preliminary injunction? Who is behind the veil of these mysterious companies? I suppose that defendants' lawyers might argue again that Mr. Pfaff and Mr. Larson have other commitments, but just because they have been convicted of felonies and are waiting sentencing in their criminal case in New York doesn't mean that they couldn't testify by phone here on Saipan. And just as importantly, the trustees of these offshore trusts should be made to appear in court and testify. It's time for defendants to stop wasting the court's time and either come to Saipan and present the evidence or stop disrupting the settlement and let this case proceed to trial."

UMDA was founded in 1966 in Saipan. UMDA's shareholders include the government or governmental entities of the CNMI, Palau, Federated States of Micronesia, and thousands of individual Micronesians and their families. ***(UMDA)***

Family Fun Day for soldier-families

The American Red Cross will be sponsoring a free Family Fun Day on Feb. 14, Saturday for all 9th Mission Support Command Units at the Pacific Islands Club. Units include 442IN, 302nd Quartermaster, 368 Military Police, 797 Engineer and 1101st TSG Companies. Soldier and their immediate family members can register by calling the NMI Chapter at 234-3459 or via email at 9mscfun@nmi.redcross.org. ***(PR)***

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3) $600.00 & ABOVE: 1 WATERCLOSET WORTH $178.00

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2X4X14 - $4.60	2X4X14 - $7.30
2X4X16 - $5.10	2X4X16 - $8.70
2X4X18 - $5.80	2X4X18 - $9.70
2X4X20 - $6.40	2X4X20 - $10.70
2X6X12 - $6.90	2X6X12 - $10.20
2X6X14 - $7.90	2X6X14 - $12.20
2X6X16 - $8.90	2X6X16 - $14.20
2X6X18 - $9.90	2X6X18 - $15.20
2X6X20 - $10.90	2X6X20 - $17.20

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USED CARS

STOCK	YEAR	MODEL	TRANS.	MILEAGE	COLOR	LICENSE #	PRICE	REDUCED PRICE
TOYOTA SEDANS								
R08-015F	2005	ECHO 4DR	AUTO	59734	WHITE	ADJ-831	9,299	
R08-022B	2005	ECHO 4DR	AUTO	70447	AQUA	ADH-691	7,999	
R08-019F	2005	COROLLA 4DR	AUTO	41092	WHITE	ACD-346	10,799	
R08-023F	2007	COROLLA 4DR	AUTO	29549	RED	ACE-780	14,999	
U08-090R	2006	COROLLA 4DR	AUTO	42193	BLUE	ACJ-553	11,399	
U09-001L	2006	COROLLA 4DR	AUTO	32900	WHITE	ACE-506	11,399	
R09-001B	2005	COROLLA 4DR	AUTO	242798	WHITE	ACB-578	5,999	
R08-008F	2006	CAMRY LE 4DR	AUTO	18576	BEIGE	ADN-161	15,999	
R08-020F	2006	CAMRY LE 4DR	AUTO	50052	RED	ADO-831	15,999	
U08-043P	2000	CELICA 2DR	MANUAL	72097	BLUE	ABZ-838	7,999	
R08-021F	2005	MATRIX BASE	AUTO	68931	RED	ACD-510	9,999	
GM CARS								
R08-014F	2006	AVEO 4DR.	AUTO	33945	WHITE	ADS-642	9,999	
R07-013F	2005	AVEO HATCHBACK	AUTO	39164	ORANGE	ADO-022	~~9,599~~	6,899
R07-034F	2005	OPTRA 4DR.	AUTO	14592	SILVER	ACD-020	~~10,999~~	9,499
U08-087R	2005	EPICA 4DR	AUTO	26553	OLIVE	ACB-027	5,999	
LEXUS								
U08-067P	1995	LEXUS LS400	AUTO	24762	WHITE	ABS-062	11,399	
OTHER CARS & TRUCKS								
U07-034T	2000	NISSAN MAXIMA GXE 4DR.	AUTO	68648	WHITE	ACT-812	~~10,999~~	8,399
U07-104T	2003	NISSAN MURANO SE	AUTO	32000	PEWT	ABZ-615	~~16,799~~	15,299
U08-038T	2001	MITS MONTERO WGN	AUTO	93155	BEIGE	CVS-88	7,999	
U07-095T	1999	MAZDA MILLENIA 4DR.SEDAN	AUTO	91014	BEIGE	ABP-583	~~7,999~~	4,899
GM VAN								
R08-017F	2003	EXPRESS VAN	AUTO	117560	WHITE	BUS-1077	9,499	
U08-092L	2005	EXPRESS VAN	AUTO	78403	WHITE	BUS-1201	10,999	
SPORT UTILITY								
U07-050T	2002	RAV4 4DR 4WD	AUTO	39182	WHITE	ABW-677	~~13,699~~	12,799

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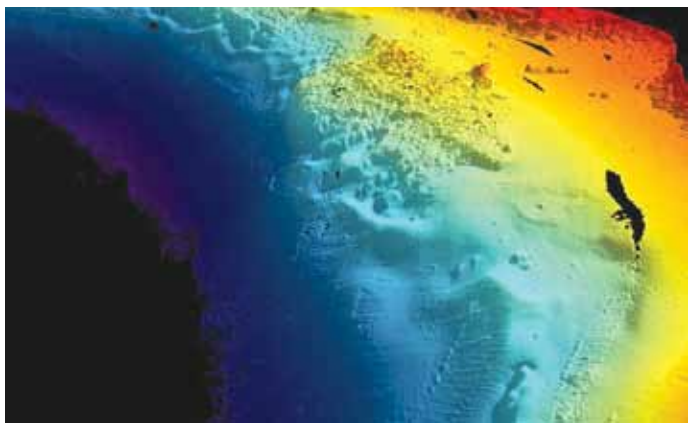
TOYOTA ACDelco

Learn about underwater marvels of the Marianas

The Office of the Governor and the Pacific Islands Club are partnering to host a public forum on "Minerals Mining in the Marianas." The forum will be conducted by Dr. James R. Hein, a marine geologist from the U.S. Geological Survey, and it will be held at the Charley's Cabaret at PIC on Sunday, Feb. 8, from 10am to 12pm.

Dr. Hein will talk about the abundant marine minerals (gold, manganese, cobalt, etc) of the Marianas Archipelago and about the soon to be completed Feb. 2-7, 2009 R/V *Natsushima* cruise traveling from Guam to Saipan. He is a member of an international scientific team from Japan and the United States that is aboard the RV *Natsushima*. The research team is headed by Dr. Yoshihiku Tamura from JAMSTEC and Dr. Robert Stern from the University of Texas at Dallas.



Bathymetric profile of West Rota areas. Credit: NOAA Ocean Explorer Program, NOAA Vents Program

These modern-day ocean explorers will use a remotely operated marine vehicle (Hyperdolphin) to gather rock samples and conduct oceanographic studies of the submarine volcanoes in Rota.

Come to the forum and learn more about the most volcanically active Ring of Fire in the world, the magnificent Marianas Trench, and be amazed at seeing liquid carbon dioxide bubbles streaming out of the Champagne Vent at more than a mile deep. Come and listen to Dr. Hein describe the wonder of what happened when the Pacific Plate met the Philippine plate to form the Mariana Islands. Enjoy the beautiful colors of unique marine animals such as shrimps and crabs that live near and within the hydrothermal vents where water temperatures reach 217 degrees Fahrenheit. These rare animals are now protected forever under the Marianas Trench Marine National Monument, which was declared by President Bush on Jan. 6, 2009.

Enjoy Sunday Brunch at PIC as you journey to the bottom of the Marianas Trench to see gold, manganese and other breathtaking minerals resting at the bottom of the ocean.

Dr. Hein will also make an afternoon presentation on the same day at the Susupe Multipurpose Center from 1pm to 4pm. The public is invited. ***(PR)***

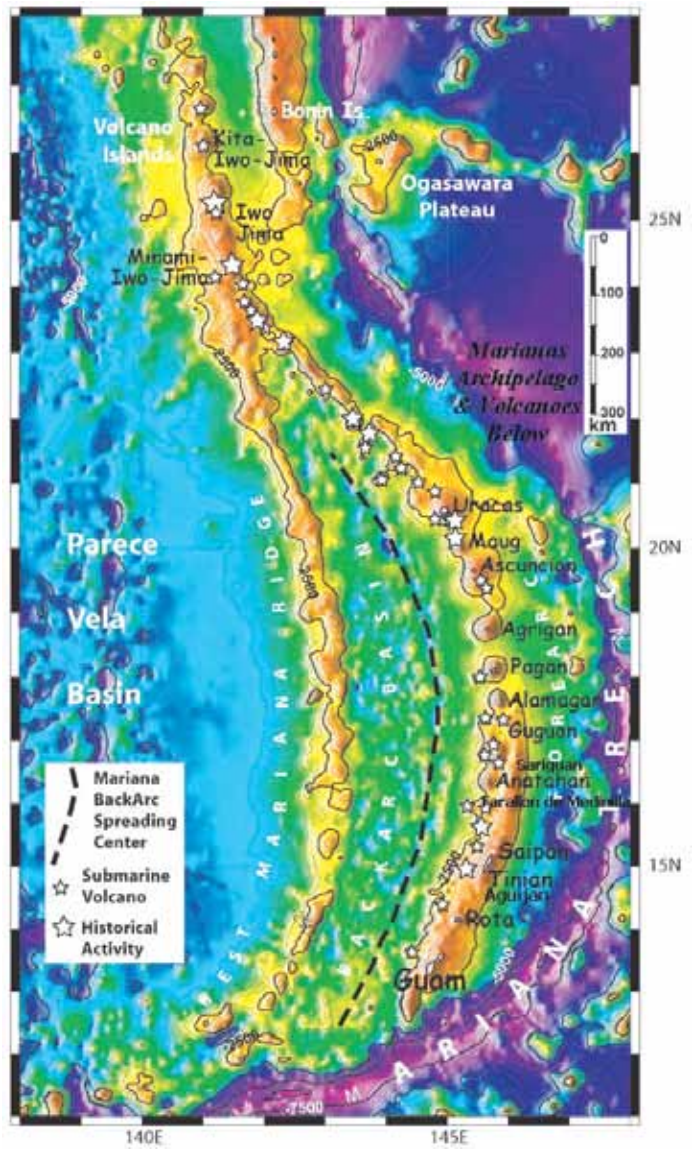
ON THE NET

- http://www.jamstec.go.jp/dsidb/e/
- http://soest.hawaii.edu/pibhmc/pibhmc_cnmi.htm
- http://oceanexplorer.noaa.gov/explorations/06fire/
- http://oceanexplorer.noaa.gov/explorations/04fire/
- http://oceanexplorer.noaa.gov/explorations/03fire/
- http://www.utdallas.edu/geosciences/faculty/profiles/stern.html
- http://www.jamstec.go.jp/e/about/equipment/ships/natsushima.html

IN BRIEF

Presentation by: Dr. Jim Hines
Place: Charley's Cabaret
Time: 10am-12pm
Admission: Free
Optional Magellan Brunch: $25, adult; Achildren, $12.50 (local discount applies.)

Presentation by: Dr. Jim Hines
Place: Multi-Purpose Center
Time: 1pm to 4pm
Admission: Free



The Marianas Archipelago. Credit: NOAA Ocean Explorer, NOAA Vent Program

NMC considers merger of small business development programs

BY MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Northern Marianas College is reassessing the programs offered by the Small Business Development Center and is looking at merging its programs with the Community Development Institute.

The college said the SBDC was not suspended or eliminated but the limited financial resources, exacerbated by the discontinuation of federal grants, led to the suspension of "some" programs, including the business incubator and the youth entrepreneurship programs.

"The SBDC has continued, however, to partner with other agencies to offer free workshops that educate participants about topics like time management, financial projections, and business computer software," NMC said in a statement yesterday.

Among the partner agencies, the college said, is the Commonwealth Development Authority.

CDA acting executive director Oscar Camacho declined to comment on the SBDC issue.

NMC admitted that the most recent workshops held at the center were in June 2008.

In a visit to the campus, the former SBDC building was converted to classrooms for carpentry sessions.

Upon its opening in 1993, the SBDC launched the Client Counseling and Workshop and Seminar programs. In 2001, it additionally created the Women-In-Business program, followed by the Youth Entrepreneurship program in 2004.

All these program's services are currently "unavailable" at the campus.

"The college is currently reassessing the offerings customarily offered by the SBDC and is examining current market needs through heightened dialogue with representatives from business and government leaders. In this regard, the college plans to step up SBDC's services through its Community Development Institute, a division in the college's Community Programs and Services Departments," the NMC statement said.

The services being re-assessed include short-term classes, training workshops, certificate programs, business planning and counseling sessions, and customized academic and professional seminars that are responsive to current market needs.

The college said they will tap the business faculty members to teach some of these courses.

"We recognize that small businesses play a central role in the economic health of the CNMI," said NMC Board of Regent chair Charles Cepeda. "That is why the college is committed to providing the training and resources necessary to encourage entrepreneurship and to assist private businesses thrive."

Fernandez yesterday assured high-quality services will be offered at the college.

"In the coming months you will see NMC offer high quality, flexible training opportunities that are employer focused and meet the skills and qualification needs identified by employers," said Fernandez, adding that "we are also looking into the possibility of reinstituting the U.S. SBDC program funded by the federal government."

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2005 Ford Mustang
STOCK # 55105436
$23,995.00

2004 Honda Element EX 4x4
STOCK # 4L003130
$15,995.00*

2005 Kia Spectra
STOCK # 55151646
$9,995.00*

2001 Honda Prelude
STOCK # 1C005458
$9,995.00*

2006 Nissan Armada 4x4
STOCK # 6N736174
$27,995.00*

2004 Honda Civic LX
STOCK # 4L022357
$12,995.00*

2004 Ford Explorer XLT
STOCK # 4UA51928
$12,995.00*

2005 Honda Civic DX
STOCK # 5L002379
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IT&E unveils new corporate look in Guam

GUAM—IT&E unveiled its latest renovated wireless store with a ribbon cutting ceremony at the Agana Shopping Center kiosk.

Attending the ceremony were Monsignor James Benavente who offered the blessing, as well as first lady Joanne Camacho, House Speaker Judy Won Pat, Sen. James Espaldon, Sumitomo Corp. representative Rick Umeda, IT&E president and CEO Jose Ricardo Delgado and PTI chair Ricardo C. Delgado. This is the second of four planned wireless outlet renovations and includes the recently opened Wireless Express Center at the Macheche Plaza.

The unveiling of IT&E's new corporate look is part of the company's commitment to continuous improvement.

"Our goal to it give our customers a good shopping experience by allowing them a place where they can ask questions, touch the product and quickly activate the phone or EVDO modem of their choice, with a plan that is right for them," said IT&E president Delgado.

"With the rollout of EVDO high speed data for IT&E wireless phones, customers need to become more familiar with the capabilities of their wireless phones. Enhancing the look and feel of our retail outlets complements and fulfills this need," Delgado said. "We are pleased to have completed this renovation and we continue to move forward with our plans for our Micronesia mall renovation, slated for completion in May."

Besides selling wireless products and services, the Agana Shopping Center outlet gives customers the convenience and flexibility of making bill payments and wireless product purchases, seven days a week. The Agana location is particularly convenient for customers based in the central and Southern portions of the island.

The ASC outlet is open from Monday through Sunday from 10am until 8pm, except on Christmas and New Year's Day.

For more information, call 922-4ITE. ***(IT&E)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Participating during the ribbon cutting ceremony are, from left, Sen. James Espaldon, Minority Whip, 30th Guam Legislature; Speaker Judith Won Pat, 30th Guam Legislature; Jose Ricardo Delgado, IT&E president and CEO; first lady Joanne Camacho; Monsignor James Benavente; Rick Umeda, Sumitomo Corp.; and Ricardo C. Delgado, PTI chairman.

BIRTHDAY SHOUT-OUT CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy 16th birthday greetings go out to Conseco John P. Arurang. "May God bless you and many more to come, and may you have a wonderful and enjoyable birthday. We love you always." Greetings come from your Dad, Mom, and your two handsome brothers.

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
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NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is planning to contract out the operation and maintenance of its two 1.8 mega watts main generators and controls at the Saipan International Airport.

The CPA is inviting all firms with proven work history in operations and maintenance of generators and controls to a meeting at the Generator Building at the Saipan International Airport on Monday, February 23, 2009, at 3:00 p.m. at which time and place, a familiarity of the generators and controls will be conducted. Also, the general intent of what CPA wants in terms of operation and maintenance of the generators and controls will be discussed.

A scope of work will be developed from this meeting and will be the basis for a request for proposal for an operation and maintenance contract.

/s/ EFRAIN F. CAMACHO, P.E.
Executive Director February 2, 2009

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

New license plates are here

The Department of Public Safety Bureau of Motor Vehicle is informing all private citizens and businesses with temporary vehicle license plates to come into BMV to obtain their official license plates. Shipments of the official plates have already arrived. Individuals must turn in their temporary license plates along with their vehicle registration prior to obtaining their official license plates. For more information, call the BMV at 664-9066/8/9. ***(PR)***

KagES 2nd Quarter Report Card Day today

This is to inform the parent and guardians of Kagman Elementary School that the 2nd Quarter Report Card Day distribution will be held today, Feb. 6, 2009, from 2:30 to 4:30pm, in the children's homeroom classroom. ***(PR)***

Meeting of the Autism Society of the CNMI

The Autism Society of the CNMI will be holding its monthly meeting on Feb. 12, 2009, at 5:30pm at the NMPASI Conference Room. Information regarding the group and future meetings will be available at this meeting. All families and friends of individuals with autism and autism related spectrum disorders are invited to attend. For additional information, call John at 234-8803/4 or Larrisa at 322-3761 or send an email to as_cnmi@yahoo.com. ***(PR)***

UPAA CNMI meeting

The University of the Philippines Alumni Association-CNMI Chapter will have a meeting on Sunday, Feb. 8, 10am at the Filipino Workers Resource Center, first floor, Marianas Business Plaza in Susupe. All UPAA officers/members and UP alumni are invited to attend. ***(PR)***

DEQ brigade COP cleanup tomorrow

The Division of Environmental Quality cleanup brigade will be picking up trash at Coral Ocean Point (Unai Dangkulo) tomorrow, Feb. 7.

Thos who would like to volunteer may join the group at 8am. Volunteers will clean until 10am and break for drinks and then continue, if needed.

This month, outstanding brigade volunteers who participated in at least 10 monthly cleanups will receive a brigade cap and those who participated in at least three cleanups will receive a green brigade t-shirt. For more information about volunteering, contact the DEQ office at 664-8500. ***(DEQ)***

Marianas High School schedule

Feb. 11 2nd Quarter Report Card Day/Open House, 4pm-6pm (student released at 1pm, parents pick up report cards from Homeroom teachers)

Feb. 16 No classes (President's Day)

Feb. 17 No classes (PSS Professional Development)

Feb. 27 Cultural Day, 9am-3pm MHS Campus, Open to the public

For questions and concerns, contact 237-3206. ***(PR)***

SSHS report cards out

To all parents and legal guardians of Saipan Southern High School students, report cards will be issued on Feb. 5, 2009, from 4pm to 7pm, in the counseling office. All students will be dismissed at 1pm. ***(PR)***

Oleai Elementary School PTSA meeting

The PTSA officers of Oleai Elementary School would like to inform the parents and guardians of Oleai Elementary School students that there will be a PTSA meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 10, 2009 6:15pm in the school cafeteria. Everyone is encouraged to attend.

Hopwood events

Feb. 13 Awarding ceremony for 1st Semester accomplishments. Parents of our students are welcome to witness the event at 1pm at our stage area. ***(PR)***

MCS garage sale set

The Mount Carmel School PTO will hold a garage sale on Feb. 16, 2009, Monday (President's Day), from 7am to 12pm at the MCS Cafeteria. Slots are available for rent. If you are interested in selling items at this event, contact Carlyn at 664-9022 or 483-9682 or carlynbodig@hotmail.com. ***(PR)***

John Gonzales Live schedule

The public is invited to watch and learn about newsmaking issues on John Gonzales Live on KSPN Channel 2 from 7pm to 8pm. You can participate by text (285-6382), calling (287-4230), or email johngonzales@pticom.com.

Feb. 11 Legislative Leadership and Major Unresolved Issues Sen. President Pedro P. Reyes, House Speaker. Arnold I. Palacios

Feb. 18 Preventing Teen HIV and Unintended Pregnancies Public School System

Feb. 25 Agriculture and Aquaculture: Research & Econ. Opportunities NMC CREES

Mar. 11 Retirement Fund Crisis NMIRF Board and Administrator

Mar. 25 Immigration & Labor Uncertainty CNMI Immigration and Dept. of Labor

3rd Annual Canary Walkathon

The Parent, Teacher, Students Association of San Vicente Elementary School would like to express its appreciation to all who assisted and participated in the 3rd Annual Canary Walkathon. Thank you for all your support. The donors are Rep. Rosemond Santos, Coral Ocean Point Resort Club, Dial Rent-To-Own, Dolphin Wholesale, Fiesta Resort & Spa, First Floral, Flor Hair Salon, Guangdong Hardware, Highway Express, Hollywood Theaters, Hotel Riviera Saipan, Islander Rent-A-Car, IT&E, Joeten Ace Hardware, Judy's Antique Shop, Kentucky Fried Chicken, Marianas Variety, Mayor Juan Tudela's Office, Megabyte, Mercy's Beauty Salon, Modern Stationary, National Office Supply, Nick T. Carreon, Pacific Islands Club, Pena House, Saipan Computer Services, Saipan Stevedore Company, Inc., Saipan Tribune, Salon de Manila, Sen. Luis Crisostimo, Subway, Thai House Restaurant, Triple J Wholesale, Troung's Restaurant, and Yvonne B. Tenorio. Special thanks to Commonwealth Cancer Association, DPH Comprehensive Cancer Control Program, DPH Family Planning Program, DPH Immunization Program, DPH Wise Women Village Project, NMC CREES-Aqua Culture, NMC CREES-Nutrition Program, and Mrs. Joann Ogo. ***(PR)***

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NOTICE OF SALE
UNDER POWER OF SALE
IN DEED OF TRUST

VINCENT N. ITAMAN/ ROSA L. TAMAN/ VINCENTE E. TAMAN (collectively "Trustor"), on or about April 27, 1984, gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office ("USDA"), formerly known as Farmers Home Administration, United States of America ("FmHA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on April 27, 1984 under Document No. 84-659 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the USDA, Rural Development Office.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property hereafter described:

LOT NUMBER 005 I 531, CONTAINING AN AREA OF 745 SQUARE METERS, MORE OR LESS, AS SHOWN ON THE DIVISION OF LANDS AND SURVEY'S OFFICIAL CADASTRAL PLAT NUMBER 2084/82, THE ORIGINAL OF WHICH WAS REGISTERED WITH THE LAND REGISTRY AS DOCUMENT NUMBER 14232 DATED MAY 14, 1982, THE DESCRIPTION THEREIN BEING INCORPORATED HEREIN BY REFERENCE.

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default, Trustee issued its Notice of Default and served to Trustor on December 10, 2008. More than thirty (30) days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee will, on February 13, 2009, at 10:00 a.m., at the office of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than **$77,690.00**. Sealed bids will be opened at the auction and those present will be given the opportunity to submit an additional bid, thereby, outbidding the highest sealed bid amount received by NMHC and opened on the date of the auction.

Sealed bids must be addressed to Ms. Merced M. Tomokane, Acting Chairwoman of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 and must also be received no later than **February 12, 2009, at 4:00 p.m. All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be received no later than February 12, 2009 at 4:00 p.m. Untimely sealed bids will be rejected.**

The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The purchase price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within 72 hours from time of sale.

Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Dated this 12th day of January, 2009.

/s/ JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO
Corporate Director

NMHC is an equal employment and fair housing public agency

Muñas named longest married couple in the CNMI

Nicolas and Margarita Muña have been named the Longest Married Couple in the CNMI.

Nicolas Quidachai Muña, 89, was born on Oct. 16, 1919, and Margarita Camacho Muña, 85, was born on June 5, 1923. They've been married over 66 years and will be celebrating their 67th wedding anniversary on Sept. 26, 2009. They were married in 1942 at the Garapan Church during the Japanese era.

The Muñas have a considerably large family with 14 children (seven girls, seven boys, but three deceased), 47 grandchildren, 78 great grandchildren and 15 great, great grandchildren. Mr. Muña says that "we love to sit down and tell stories about the past."

When asked about their secret to a long and happy marriage, the Muña's replied that "having an understanding between each other with open and good communication, a lot of love, caring and helping each other with everything that needs to be done, such as raising our children together. This is what made us stay strong." They also remarked that they didn't know that they would make it this far in their marriage, meaning that they didn't know that both of them would still be alive to this day.

The Muña couple will be honored at the World Marriage Day Celebration on Saturday, Feb. 7 2009.

The CNMI Chapter of the Worldwide Marriage Encounter Community is inviting all married couples in the CNMI to celebration, which will be held from 4pm to 6pm at the American Memorial Park Amphitheater. The celebration is free and open to all married couples! ***(PR)***

The Muña family poses for a group portrait.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Nicolas and Margarita Muña have been named the Longest Married Couple in the CNMI.

Coast Guard converts Maui lighthouse to a 'green house'

LAHAINA, Hawaii—Senior Chief Petty Officer David Garrett and his crew from the U.S. Coast Guard Aids to Navigation Team, Honolulu, converted the third lighthouse in Hawaii to solar power Wednesday, Jan. 7, 2009.

The ANT pulled the plug on the 93-year-old lighthouse and ended many years of reliance on Maui County's local power plant.

"With the new developments in light emitting diode technology, these solar projects have been possible," said Senior Chief Garrett, officer in charge of the ANT Honolulu and an instrumental leader in the ANT's 'solarization' project.

"These changes are being evaluated for every aid throughout the island chain that relies on shore power," said Garrett. "The energy saving is one part but the continuity of operations is the main goal, if power goes out these lights will not."

'Lahaina Light' sits on the site of the first lighthouse in Hawaii where, in 1840, King Kamehameha III ordered a nine-foot wooden tower to be built as an aid to navigation for the whaling ships that anchored off Lahaina. The lamp at that time was lit with oil and a man was stationed there at night to ensure it stayed lit. The tower was increased to 26 feet in 1905 and rebuilt with the present tower in 1916. ***(USCG)***

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
The Office of Vocational Rehabilitation

PUBLIC NOTICE

The staff of the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation will have a Wellness and Rehabilitation Day today, February 6th, 2009 from 7:30 AM – 4:30 PM. Services for this particular day will be temporarily halted until Monday February 9th, 2009.

Thank you for your full support and understanding

Margarita R. Olopai-Taitano
OVR Director

This announcement is paid for by federal funds made possible by a grant from the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitation Services (OSERS).

Island Snapshots

NEW FLAG CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Natural Resources Committee members gather beneath the flags of the U.S. and its insular areas after the Northern Marianas flag was added to the display Wednesday. From left, Ranking Member Doc Hastings (WA), Chairman Nick J. Rahall, II (WV), Gregorio "Kilili" Sablan (I-MP), Madeleine Z. Bordallo (D-GU), Grace F. Napolitano (D-CA), Raúl M. Grijalva (D-AZ), and Neil Abercrombie (D-HI).

AGRICULTURAL SUMMIT

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, center, gestures as he calls on the community to support local farmers and ranchers, while Saipan Municipal Council vice chair Ramon B. Camacho, left, and Northern Marianas College president Dr. Carmen Fernandez look on during a press conference in the Governor's Conference Room on Capital Hill yesterday. An agricultural summit will be held on Feb. 11 and 12 at the Saipan World Resort.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

FUTURE SCIENTISTS

Commissioner Dr. Rita Sablan, Sina Palacios, Rita Carreon,Stephen Barro, Paula Francisco(2nd place), Alannah Mae Sablan(1st place) and Christian Espinosa(3rd place) pose for a picture during the Islandwide Science Fair Expo. Congratulations to all of you from the Octopus Family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Congratulations to Alannah Mae Carreon Sablan for winning first place on the K-1st division Earth & Space Category and is the top 4 winner to compete in Guam for the K-1st division Earth & Space Category. We are very proud of you and good luck…from the family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

ANTI-VANDALS FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Juvenile investigator Vincent Mareham looks at photos of vandalized buildings, cars, and bus stops during a press conference yesterday. The police is stepping up efforts to catch vandals on the islands.

MEMO OF UNDERSTANDING

Businessman Tony Pellegrino, center, signs the memorandum of understanding between the Northern Marianas Trades Institute and the Saipan Chamber of Commerce regarding Chamber scholarships for NMTI students at the Hyatt Regency yesterday. Also in photo are Chamber's Kathryn Barry and president Jim Arenovski.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

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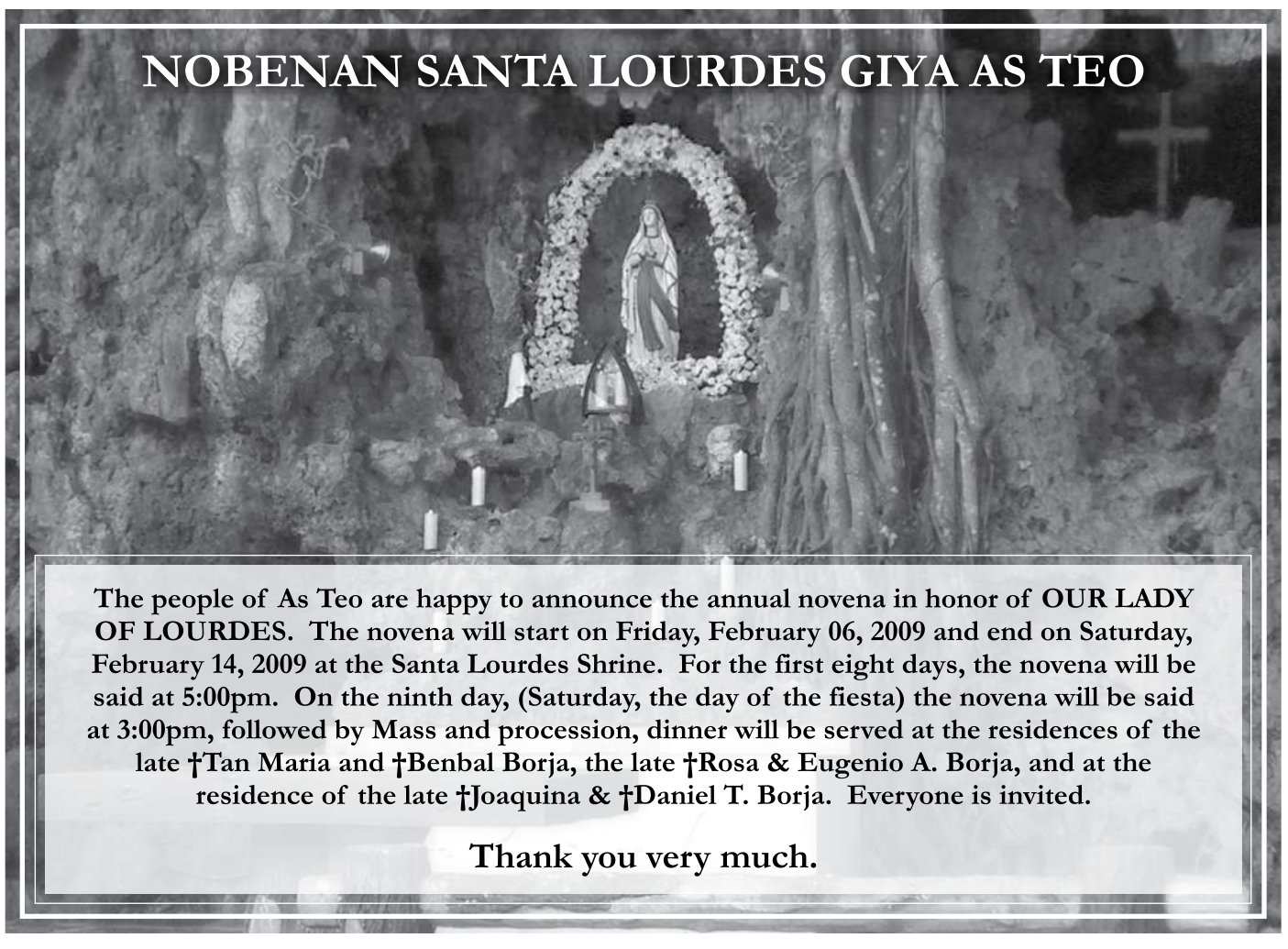

NOBENAN SANTA LOURDES GIYA AS TEO
The people of As Teo are happy to announce the annual novena in honor of OUR LADY OF LOURDES. The novena will start on Friday, February 06, 2009 and end on Saturday, February 14, 2009 at the Santa Lourdes Shrine. For the first eight days, the novena will be said at 5:00pm. On the ninth day, (Saturday, the day of the fiesta) the novena will be said at 3:00pm, followed by Mass and procession, dinner will be served at the residences of the late †Tan Maria and †Benbal Borja, the late †Rosa & Eugenio A. Borja, and at the residence of the late †Joaquina & †Daniel T. Borja. Everyone is invited.
Thank you very much.

Business

Obama caps executive pay tied to bailout money

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama on Wednesday imposed a $500,000 cap on senior executive pay for the most distressed financial institutions receiving taxpayer bailout money and promised new steps to end a system of "executives being rewarded for failure."

Obama announced the unusual government intervention into corporate America at the White House, with Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner at his side. The president said the executive-pay limits are a first step, to be followed by the unveiling next week of a sweeping new framework for spending what remains of the $700 billion financial industry bailout that Congress created last year.

The pay limit comes amid a national outcry over huge bonuses to executives who head companies that seek taxpayer dollars to remain afloat. The demand for limits was reinforced by revelations that Wall Street firms paid more than $18 billion in bonuses in 2008 amid the economic downturn and the massive infusion of taxpayer dollars.

The limit would apply to top-paid executives at the most distressed financial institutions that are negotiating bailout agreements with the federal government. It also would apply to other banks that receive aid, but they could get around the limits by publicizing to shareholders plans to exceed the salary cap.

The limits would not apply retroactively to any bank that received money from the first half of the $700 billion bailout allocated by Congress. For example, the restriction would not apply to such firms as American International Group Inc., Bank of America Corp., and Citigroup Inc., that already have received such help.

But Obama touted the broad symbolism of his action.

Banks could still exploit wiggle room in pay caps

NEW YORK (AP)—The squeeze on big paydays for executives of bailed-out banks will probably leave Wall Street plenty of wiggle room.

Consultants on executive pay say the caps imposed by President Barack Obama on Wednesday will probably apply only to a few executives—not star traders, brokers and salespeople who routinely earn whopping pay packages.

Others note Wall Street typically finds ways to exploit loopholes and figure this time will be no different.

"You've got a lot of people on Wall Street who are not executives but still make extremely big salaries," said Mark Borges, a principal at compensation consulting firm Compensia Inc. "I suspect this doesn't impact them at all."

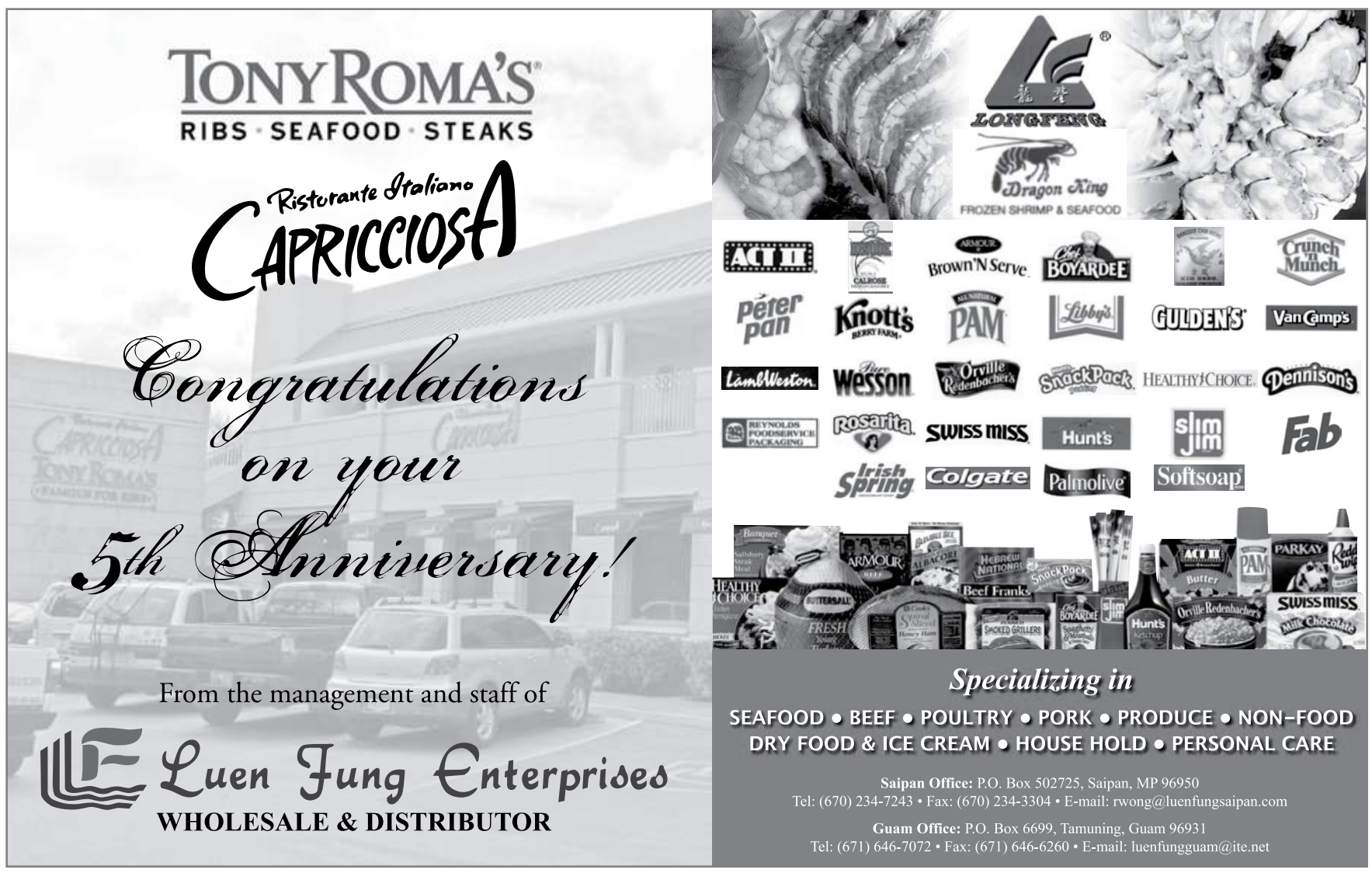
The new rules require banks that receive "exceptional assistance" from the government to cap salaries, including cash bonuses, at $500,000 for senior executives.

If those firms wanted to pay their executives more, they would have to use stock that couldn't be sold until the bank had repaid the bailout money. The rules apply only to the future, not to banks that have already received bailout money.

Healthier banks that will receive bailout money technically would also face the $500,000 cap. But they could avoid it by providing full public disclosure and holding a nonbinding shareholder vote.

The White House is trying to stem rising public concern that financial firms are using billions in federal bailout dollars to pay for executive bonuses, corporate junkets and other perks.

"This is America. We don't disparage wealth. We don't begrudge anybody for achieving success," Obama said. "But what gets people upset—and rightfully so—are executives being rewarded for failure. Especially when those rewards are subsidized by U.S. taxpayers."



Nation

Obama signs bill extending kids' health insurance

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama on Wednesday signed a bill extending health coverage to 4 million uninsured children, a move he called a first step toward fulfilling a campaign pledge to provide insurance for all Americans. It was a victory for Obama a day after his nominee to shepherd his broad health care agenda stepped aside amid tax problems.

Obama used an ebullient East Room signing ceremony to continue his push for his plan that would provide universal health insurance, even as he spent much of the previous day admitting he "screwed up" in naming former Sen. Tom Daschle to spearhead the health care overhaul. He wrapped the signing event in another pitch for his separate $819 billion economic plan that now is under consideration in the Senate and faces Republican opposition.

"As I think everybody here will agree, this is only the first step," Obama said of the bill that reauthorizes the State Children's Health Insurance Program.

"Because the way I see it, providing coverage to 11 million children through CHIP is a down payment on my commitment to cover every single American," he said to applause before turning to the economic recovery bill.

"It won't be easy; it won't happen all at once," Obama said. "But this bill that I'm about to sign, that wasn't easy either."

Obama and his advisers see the economic crisis as his window to push through many of his campaign pledges. Renewable energy, financial regulation and even rural Internet access all have been tied to repairing the nation's fractured economy. In the process, Obama has exposed his plan to criticism and questions that threaten to jettison the first major legislation his team has assembled.

"I refuse to accept that millions of our children fail to reach their full potential because we fail to meet their basic needs. In a decent society, there are certain obligations that are not subject to trade-offs or negotiations, and health care for our children is one of those obligations," Obama said, signaling he was readying for a fight.

Obama has faced a difficult week, his second full one in office. Daschle, the former Senate Democratic leader, withdrew his nomination as secretary of health and human services after acknowledging he failed to pay taxes on a car and driver provided by a Democratic fundraiser. His departure also left in the president's team a large gap for someone to usher through sweeping reform Obama has promised.

The children's health bill calls for spending an additional $32.8 billion on SCHIPI, which now enrolls an estimated 7 million children. Lawmakers generated that revenue by raising the federal tobacco tax.

Health officials project that there are about 8 million to 9 million uninsured children in the United States.

The bill went to the White House fresh from passage in the Democratic-controlled House, on a vote of 290-135. Forty Republicans joined in approval.

Most Republicans, though, criticized the cost of the legislation. They also said it will mean an estimated 2.4 million children who otherwise would have access to private insurance will join the State Children's Health Insurance Program instead.

Janet P. Catalan
PMB 1483 Box 10005
Saipan, MP 96950
(670) 235-8377

Pro Se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

JANET P. CATALAN, Petitioner,	FCD-DI CIVIL ACTION NO. 08-0323
DANNY CATALAN, Respondent.	VERIFIED EX-PARTE MOTION FOR AN ORDER TO APPEAR AND PLEAD AND FOR SERVICE BY PUBLICATION

MOTION

COMES NOW, the Petitioner, Janet P. Catalan, and respectfully moves this court, pursuant to 7 CMC Section 1301 and 1302 for an Order to Appear and Plead and to serve the Petition, Summons and the Order of this Court upon the Respondent, by publication in a newspaper of general circulation in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands because Rerpondent cannot be found or served.

DATED this 29th day of January, 2009.

/s/Janet P. Catalan
Petitioner

Jeffrey P. Cabrera
P.O. Box 501116
Saipan, MP 96950
(670) 237-2700

Pro Se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

JEFFREY P. CABRERA, Petitioner,	FCD-DI CIVIL ACTION NO. 08-0443
XIAQIN ZHOU CABRERA, Respondent.	VERIFIED EX-PARTE MOTION FOR AN ORDER TO APPEAR AND PLEAD AND FOR SERVICE BY PUBLICATION

MOTION

COMES NOW, the Petitioner, Jeffrey P. Cabrera, and respectfully moves this court, pursuant to 7 CMC Section 1301 and 1302 for an Order to Appear and Plead and to serve the Petition, Summons and the Order of this Court upon the Respondent, by publication in a newspaper of general circulation in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands because Rerpondent cannot be found or served.

DATED this 29th day of January, 2009.

/s/Jeffrey P. Cabrera
Petitioner

ACROSS THE NATION

Senate OKs $15,000 tax break for homebuyers

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Senate voted Wednesday night to give a tax break of up to $15,000 to homebuyers in hopes of revitalizing the housing industry, a victory for Republicans eager to leave their mark on a mammoth economic stimulus bill at the heart of President Barack Obama's recovery plan. The tax break was approved without dissent and came on a day in which Obama pushed back pointedly against Republican critics of the legislation even as he reached across party lines to consider a reduction in the spending it contains. "Let's not make the perfect the enemy of the essential," Obama said as Senate Republicans stepped up their criticism of the bill's spending and pressed for additional tax cuts and relief for homeowners. He warned that failure to act quickly "will turn crisis into a catastrophe and guarantee a longer recession."

FBI announces review of evidence in Tylenol deaths

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. (AP)—Federal agents on Wednesday searched the home of a man linked to the fatal 1982 Tylenol poisonings in Illinois and the FBI in Chicago said authorities are reviewing evidence in the deaths, which caused a nationwide scare and led to dramatic changes in the way food and medical products are packaged. No one was ever charged with the deaths of seven people who took the cyanide-laced drugs. The FBI would not immediately confirm the search at the apartment of James W. Lewis was related to the Tylenol case, only that it was part of an ongoing investigation. Lewis served more than 12 years in prison for sending an extortion note to Johnson & Johnson demanding $1 million to "stop the killing." The FBI's Chicago office cited "advances in forensic technology" in a statement announcing that it, along with Illinois State Police and local departments, was reviewing all evidence in the case.

Coroner: Death of boy, 10, at Ill. school suicide

EVANSTON, Ill. (AP)—A 10-year-old boy reportedly found hanging from a coat hook at his suburban Chicago school took his own life, according to a preliminary coroner's office ruling on Wednesday. A daily ledger released by the Cook County medical examiner noted "hanging" and "suicide" as the cause of death for fifth-grader Aquan Lewis, who was found unresponsive in a bathroom at the Evanston school Tuesday afternoon and was pronounced dead at a hospital Wednesday morning. The boy's distraught mother, Angel Lewis, left a school district building hours earlier, not speaking directly to reporters but saying over and over, "He should have been accounted for. He should have been accounted for." A janitor at Oakton Elementary School, Elliott Lieteau, said he found Aquan on the floor of the restroom and that others told him the boy had been pulled off a hook. Lieteau said he performed CPR.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Proposed Amendment of the Official Saipan Zoning Map (Rezones)

We ask for your comments on proposed amendments (rezones) to the Official Saipan Zoning Maps, sheets 23 (San Vicente), 24 (San Antonio), and 26 (As Lito).

A public hearing will be held:
Date: Tuesday, February 24, 2009
Time: 6:00 pm
Place: Zoning Office Conference Room, 2nd Floor, Joeten Building, DanDan

The proposed map changes may be viewed at
Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Building, DanDan
Zoning Board website: www.zoning.gov.mp (publications page)

After the public hearing, the Zoning Board will make a decision on whether to approve any or all of the changes to the Official Zoning Maps.

Comments on the proposals may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office and must be received at the Zoning Office by 12:00 pm, Wednesday, February 25, 2009. Send written comments via e-mail to staff@zoning.gov.mp, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, DanDan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please contact the Zoning Office at 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Saipan Zoning Law of 2007.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

O2 Scuba & Resort, Inc.

The public is invited to provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on Conditional Use Permit Application, No. 2008-2429, by O2 Scuba & Resort, Inc. The application is for a hotel and other related resort activities for hotel guests.

Date: February 13, 2009 (Friday)
Time: 6:00 pm
Place: Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan.

The conditional use application may be viewed at the Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Building, DanDan, Saipan. Comments on the project may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may also be submitted in writing to the Zoning Office no later than 4:30 pm, February 16, 2009. Written comments may be submitted via e-mail to staff@zoning.gov.mp, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or delivered to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, DanDan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please contact Steve Tilley, Zoning Administrator, at 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & Division 3 of Title 10 CMC).

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD MEETING

The regular monthly meeting of the Zoning Board will be held on Friday, February 13, 2009 at 6:00 pm, Saipan Zoning Office, 2nd floor of Joeten Dandan. The public is invited to attend. The agenda will include:

A. Preliminary Matters: Call to Order, Roll Call, Adoption of Agenda, Election of Officers, Adoption of Minutes, Communications
B. Reports: Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Administrator, Committees, Legal Counsel
C. Public Hearings. Conditional Use file 2009-0380, GMJ's Corporation; Conditional Use file 2008-2429, O2 Scuba and Resort, Inc.
D. Contested Cases. None
E. Permits, Rezones, and Related Actions - Review and Decide
   1. 2008-0488, Preliminary Plat Major Subdivision, Lot 1479-5-2-R1
   2. 2008-2429, Conditional Use, O2 Scuba and Resort, Inc.
   3. 2009-0380, Conditional Use, GMJ's Corporation
   4. Review and approve amendments (rezones) to the Official Saipan Zoning Maps.
      a. **Map 09.** Rezone lots TR# 22595-1,-2,-3,-4,-5,-6,-7,R-2 from RU to VC, file 2008-2396.
      b. **Map 23.** Rezone lot 443-1-1 from RU to VC, file 2008-1624.
      c. **Map 23.** Rezone TR 21357, H-218-1, from VR to VC, file 2008-1624.
      d. **Map 27.** Rezone lot 005 I 284 from VR to VC, file 2008-1717.
F. Old Business. None
G. New Business.
   1. Election of Zoning Board Officers
   2. Review new rezone proposals and approve advertising for public comment
   3. Review and approve annual report to the Governor, Legislature and to the SNILD
   4. Review and approve final progress report on OIA grant
H. Public Comment
I. Executive (Closed) Session - Consult with legal counsel regarding pending or anticipated legal matters
J. Miscellaneous: Other Matters, Announcements, Next Meeting. Adjourn

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the Board meeting, or if you require assistance, please contact Steve Tilley, Zoning Administrator at 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & 10 CMC 3511, et seq.).

Asia

Scientist says dam may have triggered China quake

BEIJING (AP)—Pressure from a dam, its reservoir's heavy waters weighing on geologic fault lines, may have helped trigger China's devastating earthquake last May, some scientists say, in a finding that suggests human activity played a role in the disaster.

The magnitude-7.9 quake in Sichuan province was China's worst in a generation, causing 70,000 deaths and leaving 5 million homeless. Just 550 yards (meters) from the fault line and 3.5 miles (5.5 kilometers) from the epicenter stands the 511-foot-high (156-meter-high) Zipingpu dam, the area's largest. The quake cracked Zipingpu, forcing the reservoir to be drained.

Fan Xiao, a chief engineer at the Sichuan Geology and Mineral Bureau, said Wednesday that the immense weight of Zipingpu's waters—315 million tons—likely affected the timing and magnitude of the quake. Though earthquakes are not rare in the area, one of such magnitude had not occurred for thousands of years, Fan said.

"I'm not saying the earthquake would not have happened without the dam, but the presence of the massive Zipingpu dam may have changed the size or time of the quake, thus creating a more violent quake," Fan said in a telephone interview.

Seismologists recognize that large bodies of water may exert pressure on fault lines deep in the earth, leading to earthquakes. The pressure can push the sides of fault lines harder together, increasing friction, or cause the fault lines to slip apart.

Scientists have recorded smaller earthquakes possibly caused by reservoirs. A magnitude-6.4 quake near India's Koyna dam killed at least 180 people in 1967 and is thought to have been induced by the reservoir.

Fan is among a number of experts who have voiced concerns in recent months about the likelihood that Zipingpu may have contributed to last year's quake. Their concerns were reported last month in Science magazine.

The Chinese government has portrayed the Sichuan quake as an unavoidable natural disaster, and it has promoted the building of large dams to meet the country's energy needs and reduce flooding.

The Three Gorges Dam, the world's largest hydroelectric project, was built to end flooding in the Yangtze River and provide a clean energy alternative to coal, but has instead been plagued with problems, from resettlement to landslides.

Many scientists are not convinced that the Zipingpu dam caused the Sichuan quake, even if it may have been a factor. Lei Xinglin, a geophysicist at the government's China Earthquake Administration, said reservoirs increase seismic activity but will not cause an earthquake. He called for further investigation.

"A reservoir in the region will have positive and negative effects on a potential earthquake, but it is ridiculous to say an earthquake was caused by the dam," Lei said. "In order to gain more knowledge, we still need to carefully research this topic rather than jumping to conclusions."

Lei said a fall in the Zipingpu reservoir's waters between December 2007 and the time of the earthquake and the penetration of water into the fault line were "major factors" in the quake.

Roger Musson, a seismologist with the British Geological Survey, said at best Zipingpu may have accelerated the timing of the quake.

Injured man dies after rejection by 14 hospitals

TOKYO (AP)—After getting struck by a motorcycle, an elderly Japanese man with head injuries waited in an ambulance as paramedics phoned 14 hospitals, each refusing to treat him.

He died 90 minutes later at the facility that finally relented—one of thousands of victims repeatedly turned away in recent years by understaffed and overcrowded hospitals in Japan.

Paramedics reached the accident scene within minutes after the man on a bicycle collided with a motorcycle in the western city of Itami. But 14 hospitals refused to admit the 69-year-old citing a lack of specialists, equipment and staff, according to Mitsuhisa Ikemoto, a fire department official.

The Jan. 20 incident was the latest in a string of recent cases in Japan in which patients were denied treatment, underscoring health care woes in a rapidly aging society that faces an acute shortage of doctors and a growing number of elderly patients.

One of the hospitals agreed to provide care when the paramedics called a second time more than an hour after the accident. But the man, who suffered head and back injuries, died soon afterward of shock from loss of blood.

The injured man might have survived if a hospital accepted him more quickly, Ikemoto said. "I wish hospitals are more willing to take patients, but they have their own reasons, too," he said.

The motorcyclist, also hurt in the accident, was denied admission by two hospitals before a third accepted him, Ikemoto said. He was recovering from his injuries.

The death prompted the city to issue a directive ordering paramedics to better coordinate with an emergency call center so patients can find a hospital within 15 minutes. But hospitals cannot be punished for turning away patients if they are full.

Similar problems have occurred frequently in recent years. More than 14,000 emergency patients were rejected at least three times by Japanese hospitals before getting treatment in 2007, the latest government survey showed.

In the worst case, a woman in her 70s with a breathing problem was rejected 49 times in Tokyo.

There was also the high-profile death of a pregnant woman in western Nara city in 2006 that prompted the government to establish a panel to look into the hospitals' practice of refusing care.

In that case, the woman was refused admission by 19 hospitals that said they were full. She died eight days later from a brain hemorrhage after falling unconscious during birth.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Russia says it wants to help US in Afghanistan

MOSCOW (AP)—President Dmitry Medvedev said Wednesday that Russia and its ex-Soviet allies wanted to cooperate with the United States on stabilizing Afghanistan but he appeared to link any help to changes in Western policy. Saying Moscow and its allies "are ready for full-fledged, comprehensive cooperation," the Russian leader seemed to imply that Moscow's help on Afghanistan was contingent on a broader list of changes it wants from the new U.S. administration. These include a halt to NATO enlargement in Europe and the cancellation of plans for a U.S. missile-defense system on Russia's western borders. Medvedev spoke less than a day after Kyrgyzstan got billions in new Russian aid and announced it was evicting the U.S. from an air base key to Afghan operations. His mix of conciliatory language and implicit demand for U.S. concessions may represent a risky attempt to pursue conflicting strategic goals at a moment when U.S. policy on Afghanistan is being remade by President Barack Obama.

Deadly medicine found in 2 more Chinese provinces

BEIJING (AP)—A diabetes drug linked to two deaths in far western China has been found on store shelves in two other provinces, though no new illnesses have been reported, state media said Thursday. The medicine, called "Tang Zhi Ning Jiao Nang," contained six times the normal amount of a chemical ingredient used to lower blood sugar, and is believed to have been distributed at many places across the country, the official Xinhua News Agency said. The case highlights China's shoddy record in food and drug safety. In the most recent scandal to rock the country, at least six babies died and nearly 300,000 were sickened by infant formula contaminated with an industrial chemical that can cause kidney stones and kidney failure. Xinhua said authorities have ordered the arrest of the main suspect involved in the sale of the drug, Li Dong, a native of northeastern China's Liaoning province. Li is still at large.

Senate stimulus bill includes benefits for Filipinos who fought for US in WWII

HONOLULU (AP)—The Senate version of the economic stimulus bill being debated in Congress includes $198 million in payments to Filipinos who fought for the U.S. during World War II. U.S. Sen. Daniel K. Inouye arranged for the long-awaited compensation to be included. About 200,000 Filipinos served alongside U.S. soldiers to defend the Philippines from the 1941 Japanese invasion and resist subsequent Japanese occupation. The Philippines was a U.S. colony at the time, and the U.S. military assured Filipinos they would could apply for U.S. citizenship and qualify for full U.S. veterans' benefits if they served. After the war, however, Congress passed the Rescission Act of 1946, stripping Filipino veterans of their status as U.S. veterans. This denied Filipinos the benefits they were promised.

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NOTICE OF SALE
UNDER POWER OF SALE
IN DEED OF TRUST

JOHN ALAN C. KING AND CARLA MARIE DLC. KING (collectively "Trustor"), on or about November 08, 2002, gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office ("USDA"), formerly known as Farmers Home Administration, United States of America ("FmHA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on December 12, 2003, under Document No. 03-2781 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the USDA, Rural Development Office.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property hereafter described:

LOT NO. 330 R 321 CONTAINING AS AREA OF 838 SQUARE METERS, MORE OR LESS AS SHOWN ON THE DIVEISION OF LANDS AND SURVEYS OFFICIAL CADASTRAL PLAT NO. 330 R 08 DATED NOVEMBER 19, 1996, COMMONWEALTH RECORDER'S FILE NO. 97-746, DATED APRIL 02, 1996, THE DESRIPTION THEREIN BEING INCROPORATED HEREIN BY REFERENCE.

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default, Trustee issued its Notice of Default and served to Trustor on December 02, 2008. More than thirty (30) days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee will, on February 13, 2009, at 10:00 a.m., at the office of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than **$65,980.00**. Sealed bids will be opened at the auction and those present will be given the opportunity to submit an additional bid, thereby, outbidding the highest sealed bid amount received by NMHC and opened on the date of the auction.

Sealed bids must be addressed to Ms. Merced M. Tomokane, Acting Chairwoman of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 and must also be received no later than **February 12, 2009, at 4:00 p.m. All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be received no later than February 12, 2009 at 4:00 p.m. Untimely sealed bids will be rejected.**

The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The purchase price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within 72 hours from time of sale.

Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Dated this 12th day of January, 2009.

/s/ JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO
Corporate Director

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NOTICE OF SALE
UNDER POWER OF SALE
IN DEED OF TRUST

REGINA T. CASRO ("Trustor"), on or about October 23, 1984, gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office ("USDA"), formerly known as Farmers Home Administration, United States of America ("FmHA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on October 23, 1984, under Document No. 84-2264 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the USDA, Rural Development Office.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property hereafter described:

LOT NUMBER 005 B 09, CONTAINING AN AREA OF 407 SQUARE METERS, MORE OR LESS, AS MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED ON DRAWING/CADASTRAL PLAT NUMBER 005 B 00, THE ORIGINAL OF WHICH WAS REGISTERED WITH THE LAND REGISTRY AS DOCUMENT NUMBER 832, ON THE 9TH DAY OF JUNE, 1971.

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default, Trustee issued its Notice of Default and served to Trustor on November 24, 2008. More than thirty (30) days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee will, on February 13, 2009, at 10:00 a.m., at the office of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than **$76,150.00**. Sealed bids will be opened at the auction and those present will be given the opportunity to submit an additional bid, thereby, outbidding the highest sealed bid amount received by NMHC and opened on the date of the auction.

Sealed bids must be addressed to Ms. Merced M. Tomokane, Acting Chairwoman of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 and must also be received no later than **February 12, 2009, at 4:00 p.m. All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be received no later than February 12, 2009 at 4:00 p.m. Untimely sealed bids will be rejected.**

The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The purchase price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within 72 hours from time of sale.

Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Dated this 12th day of January, 2009.

/s/ JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO
Corporate Director

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NOTICE OF SALE
UNDER POWER OF SALE
IN DEED OF TRUST

IGNACIO A. CABRERA AND ANA B. CABRERA (collectively "Trustor"), on or about October 20, 1983, gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office ("USDA"), formerly known as Farmers Home Administration, United States of America ("FmHA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on October 21, 1983 under Document No. 83-90 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the USDA, Rural Development Office.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property hereafter described:

LOT NO. 006 T 18, AND CONTAINING AN AREA OF 901 SQUARE METERS, MORE OR LESS, AS MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED ON DRAWING/CADASTRAL PLAT NUMBER 006 T 01, THE ORIGINAL OF WHICH WAS REGISTERED WITH THE LAND REGISTRY AS DOCUMENT NUMBER 18011, ON THE 7TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 1983

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default, Trustee issued its Notice of Default and served to Trustor on December 10, 2008. More than thirty (30) days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee will, on February 13, 2009, at 10:00 a.m., at the office of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than **$79,150.00**. Sealed bids will be opened at the auction and those present will be given the opportunity to submit an additional bid, thereby, outbidding the highest sealed bid amount received by NMHC and opened on the date of the auction.

Sealed bids must be addressed to Ms. Merced M. Tomokane, Acting Chairwoman of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 and must also be received no later than **February 12, 2009, at 4:00 p.m. All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be received no later than February 12, 2009 at 4:00 p.m. Untimely sealed bids will be rejected.**

The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The purchase price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within 72 hours from time of sale.

Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Dated this 12th day of January, 2009.

/s/ JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO
Corporate Director

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World

Officials: Hamas seizes UN food aid in Gaza

JERUSALEM (AP)—Armed Hamas police broke into a Gaza warehouse packed with U.N. humanitarian supplies and seized thousands of blankets and food packages, officials said Wednesday.

It was a rare public clash between the international agency that feeds much of the territory and the militant group that rules it. And the incident highlighted difficulties facing donors seeking to bypass Hamas while helping Gazans survive and rebuild after Israel's punishing military operation.

In New York, U.N. deputy spokeswoman Marie Okabe said UNRWA "condemned in the strongest terms" the confiscation of its aid supplies. The U.N. demanded the items be returned, but they remained with Hamas late Wednesday.

Hamas policemen stormed an aid warehouse in Gaza City Tuesday evening and confiscated 3,500 blankets and over 400 food parcels ready for distribution to 500 families, said United Nations Relief and Works Agency spokesman Christopher Gunness.

"They were armed. They seized this. They took it by force," Gunness said, terming the incident "absolutely unacceptable."

The seizure took place after UNRWA staff earlier refused to hand over the aid supplies to the Hamas-run Ministry of Social Affairs, he said. Similar aid packages were distributed to 70,000 residents over the past two weeks, Gunness said.

Ahmad Kurd, the Hamas official in charge of the ministry, did not deny the aid was seized, charging the U.N. was giving the aid to local groups with ties to Hamas opponents.

"UNRWA did not do what it said it would do, and began distributing its aid to groups that tie their activities to political activism," Kurd said, an apparent reference to Fatah, the main opponents of Hamas. In 2007, Hamas overran Gaza, expelling Fatah forces.

Ihab Ghussein, a spokesman for the Interior Ministry, said the incident occurred because the U.N. was storing the blankets in an unauthorized area. Hamas spokesman Taher Nunu demanded an apology from UNRWA, saying the group was "spreading false news."

But control appeared to be at the heart of the issue.

The ability of Hamas to provide aid is crucial to maintaining support for its rule in the territory. The group claims to have distributed $50 million in emergency cash relief since the end of the incursion.

An 18-month blockade by Israel and Egypt left Gaza critically short of vital supplies, and residents are facing more hardship in the wake of Israel's devastating three-week military offense, which ended Jan. 18. The operation, aimed at halting rocket fire by Palestinian militants, killed 1,300 including hundreds of civilians and left thousands destitute after their homes were damaged or destroyed.

Israel and Gaza have allowed more aid into the territory in recent weeks. UNRWA, which has traditionally served the more than 1 million Palestinians living in Gaza's refugee camps, is expected to take the lead in rebuilding the territory. Israel and the international community label Hamas a terror organization and will not deal with it.

Mkhaimar Abusada, a professor at the Fatah-linked al-Azhar University in Gaza City, said Hamas probably took the supplies to distribute them more widely than the U.N., which supports only refugees.

Senior U.N. official John Ging said aid distribution would continue. "We are not going to punish the refugees for the irresponsible actions of a few," Ging said.

"The stakes are very high," Ging said. "Whatever donors give us by way of assistance has to be fully accounted for."

Some international donors have expressed concern that funds meant to rebuild Gaza could fall into the militant Islamic group's hands, and the U.N. had been trying to calm those fears.

Iraq elections a setback for Iran

BAGHDAD (AP)—Iran appears to have suffered a setback in last weekend's Iraqi elections, with Tehran's closest allies losing key races in what suggests a public backlash to what many Iraqis see as undue Iranian influence in their country.

That would represent a surprising reversal for Shiite-led Iran, which had seemed the big winner in the 2003 U.S.-led invasion that toppled Saddam Hussein's Sunni-dominated regime and empowered Iraq's majority Shiites.

Western and Arab analysts had long feared that a Shiite-governed Iraq would inevitably fall under the sway of its far larger Shiite neighbor, enabling the Iranians to expand their influence westward into the heart of the Middle East.

The two countries maintain close commercial and cultural ties—from Iranian consumer goods in the markets of Basra and Najaf in southern Iraq to the tens of thousands of Iranian pilgrims who visit Shiite religious sites here every year.

But Saturday's regional elections indicate that Iraqi nationalism trumped religious sentiments and that Iran's ability to influence policies in Iraq has its limits, even if Shiites dominate the government here for years to come.

The big issues in the campaign were local—garbage collection, housing shortages, political corruption, unclean water. Beneath the surface, however, was an undertone of anti-Iranianism. Some candidates even in the Shiite south told voters they were "100 percent Iraqi."

Many Iraqis—and not just Sunnis—still harbor deep-seated suspicion of the Iranians dating back to the Iran-Iraq war of the 1980s. Iraqi Shiites bore the brunt of the casualties in the war because so many of them were low-ranking front-line soldiers.

The apparent setback for Tehran comes only weeks after Iraq signed deals with the United States, not only setting a timeline for the withdrawal of American forces but also establishing a long-term strategic partnership with Washington.

Official results from the elections—for ruling provincial councils—are not expected before Thursday.

But leaks from political parties with access to the figures indicate that Iran's closest Iraqi ally—the Supreme Islamic Iraqi Council—is trailing in all nine southern provinces and in Baghdad.

Instead, many Iraqi Shiites gave their votes to Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki's coalition and other parties that ran on secular platforms and portrayed themselves as Iraqi nationalists.

Al-Maliki's allies in his Coalition of the State of Law also profited from public support for the prime minister's crackdown last year on Shiite militias in Basra, Baghdad and other cities.

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NOTICE OF SALE
UNDER POWER OF SALE
IN DEED OF TRUST

GINA K. SOMORANG/ SOLEDAD K. SOMORANG AND MIGUEL O. SOMORANG (collectively "Trustor"), on or about May 02, 1984, gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office ("USDA"), formerly known as Farmers Home Administration, United States of America ("FmHA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on May 03, 1984, under Document No. 84-686 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the USDA, Rural Development Office.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property hereafter described:

LOT NO. 005 I 548, CONTAINING AN AREA OF 885 SQUARE METERS, MORE OR LESS, AS SHOWN ON THE DIVISION OF LANDS AND SURVEYE'S OFFICIAL CADASTRAL PLAT NUMBER 2084/82, THE ORIGINAL OF WHICH WAS REGISTERED WITH THE LAND REGISTRY AS DOCUMENT NUMBER 14232 DATED MAY 14, 1982, THE DESCRIPTION THEREIN BEING INCORPORATED HEREIN BY REFERENCE.

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default, Trustee issued its Notice of Default and served to Trustor on November 24, 2008. More than thirty (30) days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee will, on February 13, 2009, at 10:00 a.m., at the office of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than **$59,790.00**. Sealed bids will be opened at the auction and those present will be given the opportunity to submit an additional bid, thereby, outbidding the highest sealed bid amount received by NMHC and opened on the date of the auction.

Sealed bids must be addressed to Ms. Merced M. Tomokane, Acting Chairwoman of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 and must also be received no later than **February 12, 2009, at 4:00 p.m. All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be received no later than February 12, 2009 at 4:00 p.m. Untimely sealed bids will be rejected.**

The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The purchase price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within 72 hours from time of sale.

Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Dated this 12th day of January, 2009.

/s/ JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO
Corporate Director

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NOTICE OF SALE
UNDER POWER OF SALE
IN DEED OF TRUST

LUCIA M. DELEON GUERRERO ("Trustor"), on or about May 23, 1985, gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office ("USDA"), formerly known as Farmers Home Administration, United States of America ("FmHA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on May 23, 1985, under Document No. 85-0991 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the USDA, Rural Development Office.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property hereafter described:

TRACT NUMBER 20472-6, CONTAINING AN AREA OF 907 SQUARE METERS, MORE OR LESS, AS MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED ON DRAWING/CADASTRAL PLAT NUMBER 2064/82, THE ORIGINAL OF WHICH WAS REGISTERED WITH THE LAND COMMISSION AS DOCUMENT NUMBER 14154, ON THE 26TH OF MARCH, 1982.

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default, Trustee issued its Notice of Default and served to Trustor on November 24, 2008. More than thirty (30) days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee will, on February 13, 2009, at 10:00 a.m., at the office of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than **$121,150.00**. Sealed bids will be opened at the auction and those present will be given the opportunity to submit an additional bid, thereby, outbidding the highest sealed bid amount received by NMHC and opened on the date of the auction.

Sealed bids must be addressed to Ms. Merced M. Tomokane, Acting Chairwoman of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 and must also be received no later than **February 12, 2009, at 4:00 p.m. All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be received no later than February 12, 2009 at 4:00 p.m. Untimely sealed bids will be rejected.**

The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The purchase price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within 72 hours from time of sale.

Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Dated this 12th day of January, 2009.

/s/ JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO
Corporate Director

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NOTICE OF SALE
UNDER POWER OF SALE
IN DEED OF TRUST

LORETTA K. DELEON GUERRERO ("Trustor"), on or about June 29, 1998, gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office ("USDA"), formerly known as Farmers Home Administration, United States of America ("FmHA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on June 30, 1998, under Document No. 98-1942 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the USDA, Rural Development Office.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property hereafter described:

LOT NO. 010 K 05, CONTAINING AN AREA OF 892 SQUARE METERS, MORE OR LESS, AS MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED ON DRAWING/CADASTRAL PLAT NUMBER 010 K 01 DATED AUGUST 19, 1987, COMMONWEALTH RECORDER'S FILE NO. 87-2911 DATED AUGUST 19, 1987, THE DESCRIPTION THEREIN BEING INCORPORATED HEREIN BY REFERENCE.

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default, Trustee issued its Notice of Default and served to Trustor on November 24, 2008. More than thirty (30) days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee will, on February 13, 2009, at 10:00 a.m., at the office of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than **$73,440.00**. Sealed bids will be opened at the auction and those present will be given the opportunity to submit an additional bid, thereby, outbidding the highest sealed bid amount received by NMHC and opened on the date of the auction.

Sealed bids must be addressed to Ms. Merced M. Tomokane, Acting Chairwoman of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 and must also be received no later than **February 12, 2009, at 4:00 p.m. All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be received no later than February 12, 2009 at 4:00 p.m. Untimely sealed bids will be rejected.**

The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The purchase price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within 72 hours from time of sale.

Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Dated this 12th day of January, 2009.

/s/ JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO
Corporate Director

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NOTICE OF SALE
UNDER POWER OF SALE
IN DEED OF TRUST

LARS I. PALACIOS AND ROSARIO E. PALACIOS (collectively "Trustor"), on or about September 17, 1985, gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office ("USDA"), formerly known as Farmers Home Administration, United States of America ("FmHA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on September 19, 1985, under Document No. 85-1829 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the USDA, Rural Development Office.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property hereafter described:

LOT NUMBER 005 I 145, CONTAINING AN AREA OF 1,056 SQUARE METERS, MORE OR LESS, AS SHOWN ON CADASTRAL PLAT NUMBER 005 I 02, THE ORIGINAL OF WHICH WAS REGISTERED WITH THE LAND REGISTRY AS DOCUMENT NUMBER 16707, ON MARCH 11, 1983. THE DESCRIPTION BEING INCORPATED HEREIN BY REFERENCE.

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default, Trustee issued its Notice of Default and served to Trustor on December 10, 2008. More than thirty (30) days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee will, on February 13, 2009, at 10:00 a.m., at the office of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than **$85,150.00**. Sealed bids will be opened at the auction and those present will be given the opportunity to submit an additional bid, thereby, outbidding the highest sealed bid amount received by NMHC and opened on the date of the auction.

Sealed bids must be addressed to Ms. Merced M. Tomokane, Acting Chairwoman of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 and must also be received no later than **February 12, 2009, at 4:00 p.m. All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be received no later than February 12, 2009 at 4:00 p.m. Untimely sealed bids will be rejected.**

The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The purchase price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within 72 hours from time of sale.

Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Dated this 12th day of January, 2009.

/s/ JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO
Corporate Director

NMHC is an equal employment and fair housing public agency

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP 09-009

The CNMI Public School System is soliciting competitive sealed proposals for the **Construction of Generator House at various Head Start Centers on Saipan for the CNMI State Public School System (PSS).** Detailed information on the Scope of Work is available at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3 rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

All proposals shall be in a sealed envelope face marked "RFP 09-009" containing one (1) original and five (5) copies and shall be submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office no later than **March 10, 2009 at 2:00 p.m.** Responsibility Determination documents shall be placed in a separate envelope marked "RFP 09-009, CONFIDENTIAL - Responsibility Determination" (one (1)-original and five (5) copies). Any proposal after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstance.

There will a pre-bid conference for interested vendors on Wednesday, February 18, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. at the PSS Conference/Lounge Room on the 3 d floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building in Capitol Hill on the island of Saipan. Technical questions shall be in writing and addressed to MT. Juan D. Babauta, Acting Procurement & Supply Officer, via fax # (670) 664-3791. Alternatively, questions may be e-mailed to the following address: *babautajd@pss.cnmi.mp.*

Contractors are required to submit with their proposal, a copy of their valid CNMI Business License. The Public School System reserves the right to award single or multiple awards or to reject any or all proposals, in whole or in part, extend the contract 2 or 3 times, if to do so is in the best interest of the Public School System.

All proposals shall become the property of the Public School System.

/S/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D.
Commissioner of Education

/S/ Juan D. Babauta
Acting, P&S Officer

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP 09-010

The CNMI Public School System is soliciting competitive scaled proposals **to establish and facilitate a Scoring Center in the CNMI State Public School System (PSS) statewide Standard Based Assessment.** Detailed information on the Scope of Work is available at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3 d floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

All proposals shall be in a sealed envelope face marked "RFP 09-010" containing one (1) original and five (5) copies and shall be submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office no later than **March 10, 2009 at 10:00 a.m.** Responsibility Determination documents shall be placed in a separate envelope marked "RFP 09-010, CONFIDENTIAL - Responsibility Determination" (one (1)-original and five (5) copies). Any proposal after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstance.

Technical questions shall be in writing and addressed to Mr. Juan D. Babauta, Acting Procurement & Supply Officer, via fax # (670) 664-3791. Alternatively, questions may be e-mailed to the following address: *babautajd@pss.cnmi.mp.*

Contractors are required to submit with their proposal, a copy of their valid CNMI Business License. The Public School System reserves the right to award single or multiple awards or to reject any or all proposals, in whole or in part, extend the contract 2 or 3 times, if to do so is in the best interest of the Public School System and approved be the contractor.

All proposals shall become the property of the Public School System.

/S/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D.
Commissioner of Education

/S/ Juan D. Babauta
Acting, P&S Officer

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

Invitation For Bid
IFB 09-007

The Public School System is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the purchase, delivery, installation, and assembly of **Laptop Computer Systems and Accessories for William S. Reyes Elementary School (WSRES).** Detailed information on the Scope of Work is available at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

All bids shall be in a sealed envelope face marked "IFB 09-007" containing one (1) original and three (3) copies and submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office, no later than **February 11, 2009 at 10:00 a.m.** Responsibility Determination documents shall be placed in a separate envelope marked "IFB 09-007" CONFIDENTIAL – Responsibility Determination" (one (1)-original and three (3)-copies). Any bid after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstance.

Technical questions shall be in writing and addressed to Mr. Juan D. Babauta, Acting, Procurement & Supply Officer, via fax # (670) 664-3791. Alternatively, questions may be e-mailed to the following address: ***babautajd@pss.cnmi.mp.***

The Public School System reserves the right to award single or multiple awards or to reject any or all bids, in whole or in part, if to do so is in the best interest of the Public School System.

All bids shall become the property of the CNMI Public School System.

/S/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D.
Commissioner of Education

/S/ Juan D. Babauta
Acting, Procurement & Supply Officer

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

Invitation For Bid
IFB 09-008

The Public School System is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the purchase, delivery, installation, and assembly of **Tables and Chairs for Head Start Resources and Training Centers for Tinian, Chalan Kanoa and Tanapag Centers**. Detailed information on the Scope of Work is available at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

All bids shall be in a sealed envelope face marked "IFB 09-008" containing one (1) original and three (3) copies and submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office, no later than **March 09, 2009 at 10:00 a.m.** Responsibility Determination documents shall be placed in a separate envelope marked "IFB 09-008" CONFIDENTIAL – Responsibility Determination" (one (1)-original and three (3)-copies). Any bid after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstance.

Technical questions shall be in writing and addressed to Mr. Juan D. Babauta, Acting, Procurement & Supply Officer, via fax # (670) 664-3791. Alternatively, questions may be e-mailed to the following address: ***babautajd@pss.cnmi.mp.***

The Public School System reserves the right to award single or multiple awards or to reject any or all bids, in whole or in part, if to do so is in the best interest of the Public School System.

All bids shall become the property of the CNMI Public School System.

/S/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D.
Commissioner of Education

/S/ Juan D. Babauta
Acting, Procurement & Supply Officer

Off the Wall

Hacked road signs warn of zombies and raptors ahead

COLLINSVILLE, Ill. (AP)—Hackers are messing with electronic road signs in some states, warning of zombies and raptors down the road. Traffic safety officials aren't amused. The latest breach came during Tuesday morning's rush hour near Collinsville, Ill., east of St. Louis. That's where hackers changed a sign along southbound Interstate 255 to read, "DAILY LANE CLOSURES DUE TO ZOMBIES."

Similar pranks have been pulled in recent days near Indianapolis and in Austin, Texas.

The Illinois Department of Transportation's Joe Gasaway worries that such pranks distract drivers from legitimate hazards down the road, perhaps endangering road crews.

In Illinois, tampering with an official traffic control device is a misdemeanor punishable by up to a $250 fine.

AP

In this photo provided by Chris Nakashima-Brown, an electronic road sign is seen in Austin, Texas on Monday, Jan. 26, 2009. Two electronic signs intended to warn motorists of construction near the intersection of Lamar and Martin Luther King boulevards were changed yesterday by hackers.

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Cops find 60 pounds of pot in double-parked car

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—It's not a good idea to have a lot of marijuana in a car if it's double-parked. Police in West Philadelphia stopped to question a woman who was double-parked without her car's hazard lights on early Wednesday morning. As the officers spoke with the woman, a male passenger fled from the vehicle on foot. He got away, and police said an officer suffered minor injuries chasing him. Police continued to question the woman who, they said, appeared to be under the influence. She handed over an expired license and was taken into custody. Police said a subsequent search of the car by a K-9 unit turned up nearly 60 pounds of marijuana.

Man who sprayed fox urine faces felony charge

WILLMAR, Minn. (AP)—A man who sprayed teens with fox urine to keep his yard from being toilet-papered now faces a felony charge for allegedly possessing stolen military-issue night vision goggles. The man was charged Tuesday in Kandiyohi County with a felony count of receiving stolen property. He also faces a misdemeanor charge of theft, but two other misdemeanors were dismissed. The charges stem from a Sept. 16 homecoming incident in which the man sprayed teens with a squirt gun filled with water and fox urine. The man has said he was trying to defend his property. The man said he's innocent and that he gave the night vision goggles back to his son, who took them while serving with a Marine unit. The man said his son followed what he thought were proper procedures, and held on to them until he was told to turn them over. He said the way his son got the goggles was a "gray area." The man's son was also charged with a felony for receiving stolen property.

Police say Ohio woman set fires out of anger

HAMILTON, Ohio (AP)—Authorities say they have arrested an Ohio woman who told them she set fire to at least 10 homes and garages because she was angry. Hamilton fire and police officials arrested 42-year-old Gina Ann Gray on Tuesday. She is charged with seven counts of aggravated arson and three counts of arson. Fire investigator Tom Angst said Gray told authorities she set the fires at homes and garages in Hamilton, about 30 miles north of Cincinnati. The fires occurred between September 2007 and November 2008. Angst said Gray sometimes sought revenge against people. He said at other times she spotted something flammable near a house, lit it with a lighter and then walked away. Gray remains in the Butler County Jail. It was not clear whether she had an attorney.

Man shows up drunk to serve intoxication sentence

IOWA CITY, Iowa (AP)—Authorities say a 19-year-old Iowa City man showed up drunk to serve a three-day public intoxication sentence at the Johnson County Jail on Tuesday. Court records said initial tests showed the man had a blood-alcohol content of 0.101 percent when he arrived at the jail. He now faces another charge, but a court date on the new charge hasn't been set. Court records said the man pleaded guilty to public intoxication in May 2008 and was convicted of public intoxication second-offense last December.

Man boldly robs Colo. store with Star Trek sword

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. (AP)—Colorado police say a man with too much "Star Trek" on his mind used a sword modeled after the weapon carried by Klingon warriors to demand money from two convenience stores. Investigators say the man took an unknown amount of cash from a 7-Eleven store Wednesday but left empty-handed when he tried to rob another store about 25 minutes later. Police Lt. David Whitlock says no one was injured. The StarTrek.com Web site says the double-pointed sword used by the Klingons on "Star Trek" is crescent-shaped and about a yard long. Police did not specify what material it was made of. No one has been charged in the incident.

'Evangelists' accused of stealing from Tenn. homes

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Police in Nashville said two young burglars covered their intent by talking religion. Police arrested a 19-year-old and a 17-year-old and charged them with aggravated burglary. The Tennessean reported the teens were going through a neighborhood, knocking on doors while carrying church bulletins. Police said if someone answered the door, one of the youths would talk about religion. If no one was home, the residence was burglarized. But police said three homes in the area were burglarized, with electronic equipment stolen. Authorities said they recovered stolen goods from a car the suspects were driving.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

TERESITA BLAS DIAZ

September 03, 1940 - January 31, 2009

Affectionately known as "Terry'n *Badu*"

Was called home by our heavenly Father

Predeceased by:

Sons: Joseph B. Diaz & James B. Diaz
Parents: Pedro Santos Blas & Guadalupe Basa Blas
Parents-in Law: Antonio Arriola Diaz & Amalia Deleon Guerrero Diaz
Brothers, Sisters, & In-laws: Caridad B. Blas, Maria B. & Vicente P. Manibusan, Soledad A. & Jesus B. Blas, Manuel S. Matagolai, Jose M. Manglona, Eugenio N. Repeki, Ana D. & Pedro B. Magofna, Antonio & Rosalia A. Diaz, Candido & Catalina S. Diaz, Jesus Dlg. Diaz, Ramon Dlg. Diaz, Nicolas Dlg. Diaz, Margarita Dlg. Diaz, Vicente Dlg. Diaz

Lovingly Survived By:

Husband: Jose Dl Guerrero Diaz

Children & Their Family:

Debra D. Teregeyo & Vicente T. Teregeyo (Joseph Rofu & Verna, Vincent Roland)
Peter B. Diaz & Mina T. Diaz (Gina, Kina, Guadalupe, Adelaida, Peter Jr., Jesus, Kathleen)
David B. Diaz /Kathy C. Tenorio (Kimberly Ann/Edwin, Kristy, Kevin/Josepha (Vanicia), Manny, Vince-ko
Davie Blas Diaz II
Eddie & Tina Villanueva (Kristen Kalei, Jordon Jone (Jaelynn) Franklin, Eddie
Becky C. & Glen H. Manglona (Adeline, Ayessa (Scotty Boy), Elroy

Brothers & Sisters In-law:

Delgadina B. Matagolai, Lucia B. & Antonio T. Mendiola, Dolores B. Blas, Victorina B. & Alejandro R. Cabrera
Casilda B. Blas, Emiliana B. Manglona, Asinta B. & Augustine C. Pangelinan, Leonara A. Blas & Willy Castro
Juan Dlg. & Carmen Diaz, Isabel D. & Luis Cabrera, Maria D. & David Rios, Celina D. & Marty Taylor, Carmen D. & Charles Crites, Bernice P. Diaz, Joaquina D. Diaz

She is also Survived by numerous: Cousins, God sons & God Daughters, Nieces, nephews, and friends.

DAILY MASS IS BEING OFFERED AT 6:00 PM AT SAN ANTONIO CHURCH FOLLOWED BY THE HOLY ROSARY.

LAST RESPECTS WILL BE HELD ON SATURDAY, FEBUARY 7, 2009, THE BODY WILL LEAVE NUESTRA SENARA DELA PAZ AT 7:00 AM TO MOUNT CARMEL CATHEDRAL FOR VIEWING. MASS OF CHRISTIAN BURIAL WILL BE AT 10:00 AM. INTERMENT TO FOLLOW AT CHALAN KANOA CEMETERY.

Science & Technology

Do you know where your kid is? Check Google's maps

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—With an upgrade to its mobile maps, Google Inc. hopes to prove it can track people on the go as effectively as it searches for information on the Internet.

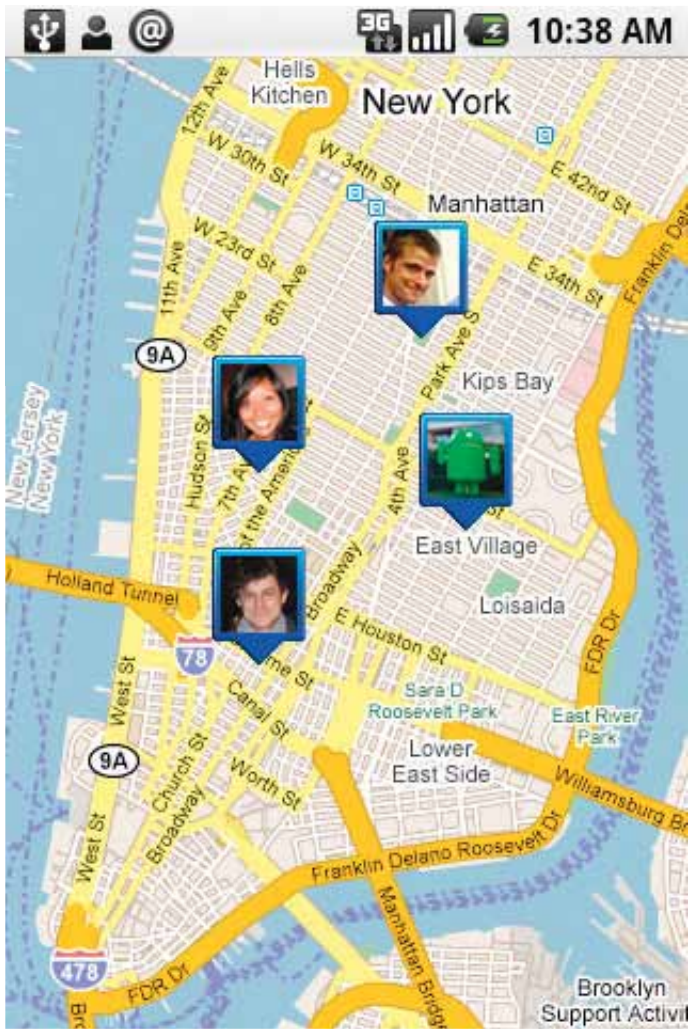
The new software released Wednesday will enable people with mobile phones and other wireless devices to automatically share their whereabouts with family and friends.

The feature, dubbed "Latitude," expands upon a tool introduced in 2007 to allow mobile phone users to check their own location on a Google map with the press of a button.

"This adds a social flavor to Google maps and makes it more fun," said Steve Lee, a Google product manager.

It could also raise privacy concerns, but Google is doing its best to avoid a backlash by requiring each user to manually turn on the tracking software and making it easy to turn off or limit access to the service.

Google also is promising not to retain any information about its users' movements. Only the last location picked up by the tracking service will be stored on Google's computers, Lee said.



AP

A screen grab showing Google's upgraded mapping system is seen in this photo provided by Google Inc.

The software plots a user's location—marked by a personal picture on Google's map—by relying on cell phone towers, global positioning systems or a Wi-Fi connection to deduce their location. The system can follow people's travels in the United States and 26 other countries.

It's left up to each user to decide who can monitor their location.

The social mapping approach is similar to a service already offered by Loopt Inc., a 3-year-old company located near Google's Mountain View headquarters.

Loopt's service is compatible with more than 100 types of mobile phones.

Congress postpones digital TV transition to June

WASHINGTON (AP)—After weeks of debate, Congress is giving consumers four more months to prepare for the upcoming transition from analog to digital television broadcasting.

The House voted 264-158 on Wednesday to postpone the shutdown of analog TV signals to June 12, to address growing concerns that too many Americans won't be ready by the Feb. 17 deadline that Congress set three years ago. The Senate passed the measure unanimously last week and the bill now heads to President Barack Obama for his signature.

The change is being mandated because digital signals are more efficient than analog ones. Ending analog broadcasts will free up valuable space in the nation's airwaves for commercial wireless services and emergency-response networks.

The delay is a victory for the Obama administration and Democrats in Congress, who maintain that the previous administration mismanaged efforts to ensure that all consumers—particularly poor, rural and minority Americans—will be prepared for the switchover.

The Nielsen Co. estimates that more than 6.5 million U.S. households that rely on analog TV sets to pick up over-the-air broadcast signals still are not ready. People who subscribe to cable or satellite TV or have a newer TV with a digital tuner will not be affected.

"The passage of this bipartisan legislation means that millions of Americans will have the time they need to prepare for the conversion," White House spokeswoman Amy Brundage said in a statement.

Speaking on the House floor Wednesday, Rick Boucher, D-Va., chairman of the House Commerce Committee's Subcommittee on Communications, Technology and the Internet, said a delay was needed to prevent the digital transition from becoming a failure.

HELP FILE

By ROB PEGORARO
(C) 2009, THE WASHINGTON POST

Q: You wrote that the digital-TV transition has nothing to do with cable TV going from analog to digital, but my cable company seems to disagree. What's the real story with digital cable?

A: Digital cable, in which TV programs are compressed and encoded as a stream of ones and zeroes before being sent over cable lines, isn't new. Cable operators have been adopting it not because of the over-the-air DTV transition—remember, they don't use the regular TV airwaves—but for the same reason that wireless-phone carriers ditched analog cellular: digital uses much less of their bandwidth.

But the movement of many popular basic-cable channels from analog to digital is a more recent development.

This represents a problem for viewers with older cable-ready TVs, who now must rent a digital cable box. Many digital sets include a quadrature amplitude modulation (QAM) tuner that can receive unencrypted digital cable signals without a box, but these sets can have problems detecting available channels on a cable system's digital feed.

A second problem arises when cable companies suggest that their digital transition has been forced by the over-the-air DTV switch—an illogical argument. Herndon, Va.-based RCN, which provides service in part of the Washington region, has been the source of many such complaints from readers. RCN spokesman Michael Houghton said the company has "had relatively few issues of this type," considering the magnitude of its move to an all-digital system.

"We've cautioned all our members ... to be very clear about not using the broadcast transition as a way to justify the migration of cable channels," wrote Brian Dietz, a vice president for the National Cable and Telecommunications Association.

■ ■ ■

Did you take a batch of pictures recently? You don't want to lose them to a computer malfunction, right? Then you're going to need a backup copy. There are some good, free or cheap backup programs for computer owners, and Windows' applications include two backup tools. But you don't need any of those programs to make a one-time backup of any pictures you just took: Just plug in a USB flash drive, copy your new photos from the computer over to the drive, unplug the drive and put it someplace where you'll remember it.

■ ■ ■

Some songs sold on the iTunes Store are better than others—not in terms of artistic merit, but compatibility. Regular iTunes downloads come with "digital rights management" locks that non-Apple software and non-iPod players can't handle. But iTunes Plus downloads—indicated with a plus icon—work in other programs and players but cost no more. They also offer better sound quality.

When a record label stops requiring DRM on iTunes, you can (and should) convert songs you've bought from that label to iTunes Plus format for 30 cents each—but if you refrain from buying a label's work until it ditches DRM, you'll never have to pay that trade-up fee.

REMEMBERING OUR LOVED ONES

GEORGE U. DIAZ
1st year

TOMASA U. & JOSE D. DIAZ
3rd year • 6th year

A year has gone by and George's voice, laughter, and jokes can still be heard and his warm and pleasant personality not forgotten. The love and care our parents instilled in our hearts have never faded.

In remembrance and celebrating their new lives with our Creator, we humbly invite our relatives and friends to join us in prayers beginning on Wednesday, February 4th, 2009 with masses of intentions offered daily at 6:00 p.m. at San Vicente Church, Saipan followed with the recitation of the rosary at 7:30 p.m. at the residence of Mrs. Evelyn Flores Diaz in San Vicente.

On the ninth day, Thursday, February 12, 2009, rosary will be prayed at 5:30 p.m. followed immediately with the Eucharistic Celebration at San Vicente Church, Saipan. An appreciation dinner will be served at the residence of Mrs. Evelyn Flores Diaz in San Vicente.

Your presence, thoughts and most especially your prayers are sincerely appreciated.

EVELYN FLORES DIAZ
[Geolyn, George Jr., Joseph, Jeremiah, Geraldine, Jude and their families]

Life & Style

For some, 'American Idol' a second chance at fame

LOS ANGELES (AP)—It has the makings of an all-star ensemble: an Osmond family member, a Rosie O'Donnell protege, the sister of a Grammy-winning blues singer, an actor from "Wicked," a former Miss New York USA, an actress who's been on "The Sopranos" and a recording artist who was covered by Britney Spears.

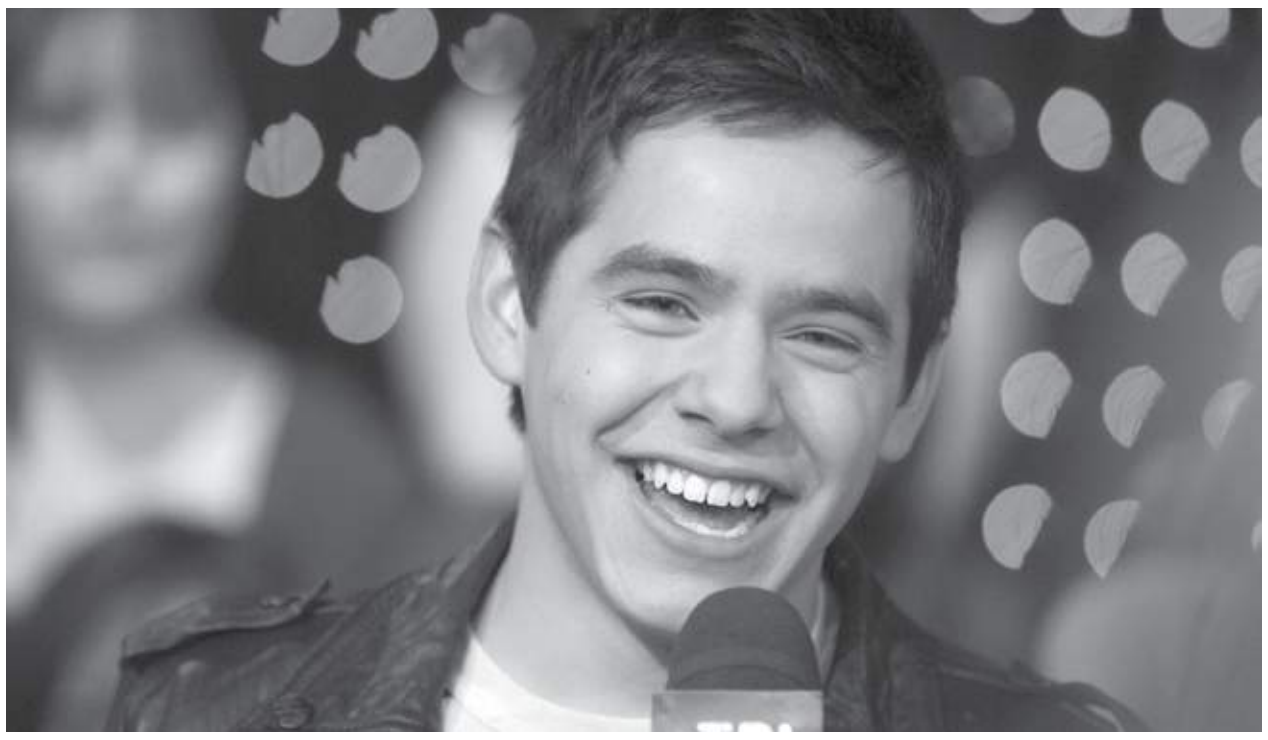
But this is not the new cast of "Dancing with the Stars." It's a cross-section of the not-so-green wannabes who made it through to Hollywood Week on "American Idol."

For the reality competition whose tagline was once "The Search for the Next Superstar," it seems there are several crooners who've already had a shot—or several—at making it in the music industry.

"The series creates this problem for itself by frequently playing up the dream-making aspect of the show, but it isn't really an amateur competition," said Andy Dehnart, who blogs about reality TV at realityblurred.com.

Joanna Pacitti, who auditioned in Kentucky, has attracted the most attention for her showbiz background. She was signed to A&M Records, as judge Kara DioGuardi pointed out on the show, and Geffen Records released an album by her in 2006. Britney Spears' tune "Out From Under," from her latest album, was first sung by Pacitti on the "Bratz" soundtrack.

Pacitti isn't the only contestant who brought a bit of her own spotlight to the "Idol" stage. Danielle Roundtree was Miss New York USA in 2008. Adam Lambert was a cast member in the Los Angeles production of "Wicked." Von Smith sang on "The View" after Rosie O'Donnell spotted him wailing on YouTube. Jackie Tohn is a professional actress who has several film and TV credits to her name, including "The Sopranos."



AP

In this Tuesday, Nov. 11, 2008 file photo, singer David Archuleta appears onstage during a taping of MTV tr3s' "MiTRL" at the MTV Times Square Studios in New York.

Other crooners have fame in their bloodline: David Osmond is the 29-year-old son of Alan Osmond, the eldest of the singing Osmond brothers; Jesse Langseth is the younger sister of Grammy Award-winning blues singer Johnny Lang; and Michael Castro is the younger brother of Jason Castro, the dreadlocked seventh season contestant who placed fourth.

"I think the producers are just lazy," said Dave Della Terza, founder of VoteForTheWorst.com, which encourages "Idol" viewers to vote for bad—but entertaining—singers. "Clearly, there's something wrong with the audition process if they have to continue to have these plants on the show."

The only stipulation in the "Idol" rulebook is that contestants cannot be under a record or management contract when they audition. Nothing restricts those who once had a record deal from trying out. In fact, the past seven seasons of the Fox show have been littered with contestants with prior history in the biz.

Still, people talk.

Last season, finalist Carly Smithson caused a stir online when it was revealed she recorded an album for MCA Records. Other experienced seventh season singers included Kristy Lee Cook, who once had a deal with Arista Nashville; Robbie Carrico, who was in the pop group Boyz N Girlz United; and runner-up David Archuleta, who won "Star Search" in 2003.

"Don't forget Kelly Clarkson had schlepped around Los Angeles having no success before she went back to Texas and started working in a bar before we found her," executive producer Ken Warwick said during a conference call with reporters at the beginning of the current season. "I don't think anyone would say she didn't deserve to be there."

A few of the current hopefuls have already appeared on reality TV singing competitions. Allison Iraheta won the Telmundo contest "Quinceanera" in 2006. Brent Keith Smith was a contestant on the second season of "Nashville Star" in 2004. Jackie Mendez competed in 2006 on ABC's "Idol" knockoff "The One," which featured DioGuardi as a judge pre-"Idol."

There are also a few contestants who already made it through to the Hollywood round in past seasons, including Mishavonna Henson (seasons six and seven) and Junot Joyner (season seven). Along with being previously signed to a record label, there's nothing in the rules that excludes contestants dismissed from prior seasons from returning to compete.

"When I made it to Hollywood, my first thought was, 'Wow. Here we go again,'" Joyner said in a video posted on AmericanIdol.com. "Last season, I actually made it, and, of course, it didn't turn out as I would have liked, but you put the past behind you."

AP alleges copyright infringement of Obama image

NEW YORK (AP)—On buttons, posters and Web sites, the image was everywhere during last year's presidential campaign: A pensive Barack Obama looking upward, as if to the future, splashed in a Warholesque red, white and blue and underlined with the caption HOPE.

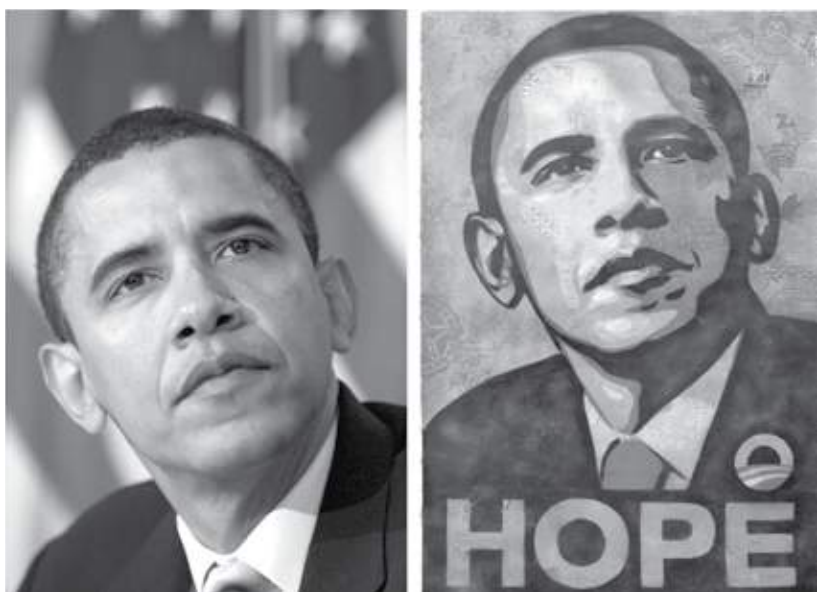
Designed by Shepard Fairey, a Los-Angeles based street artist, the image has led to sales of hundreds of thousands of posters and stickers, has become so much in demand that copies signed by Fairey have been purchased for thousands of dollars on eBay.

The image, Fairey has acknowledged, is based on an Associated Press photograph, taken in April 2006 by Manny Garcia on assignment for the AP at the National Press Club in Washington.

The AP says it owns the copyright, and wants credit and compensation. Fairey disagrees.

"The Associated Press has determined that the photograph used in the poster is an AP photo and that its use required permission," the AP's director of media relations, Paul Colford, said in a statement.

"AP safeguards its assets and looks at these events on a case-by-case basis. We have reached out to Mr. Fairey's attorney and are in discussions. We hope for an amicable solution."



AP

A poster of President Barack Obama, right, by artist Shepard Fairey is shown for comparison with this April 27, 2006 file photo of then-Sen. Barack Obama by Associated Press photographer Manny Garcia at the National Press Club in Washington.

"We believe fair use protects Shepard's right to do what he did here," says Fairey's attorney, Anthony Falzone, executive director of the Fair Use Project at Stanford University and a lecturer at the Stanford Law School. "It wouldn't be appropriate to comment beyond that at this time because we are in discussions about this with the AP."

Fair use is a legal concept that allows exceptions to copyright law, based on, among other factors, how much of the original is used, what the new work is used for and how the original is affected by the new work.

A longtime rebel with a history of breaking rules, Fairey has said he found the photograph using Google Images. He released the image on his Web site shortly after he created it, in early 2008, and made thousands of posters for the street.

As it caught on, supporters began downloading the image and distributing it at campaign events, while blogs and other Internet sites picked it up. Fairey has said that he did not receive any of the money raised.

A former Obama campaign official said they were well aware of the image based on the picture taken by Garcia, a temporary hire no longer with the AP, but never licensed it or used it officially. The Obama official asked not to be identified because no one was authorized anymore to speak on behalf of the campaign.

The image's fame did not end with the election.

It will be included this month at a Fairey exhibit at the Institute of Contemporary Art in Boston and a mixed-media stenciled collage version has been added to the permanent collection of the National Portrait Gallery in Washington.

"The continued use of the poster, regardless of whether it is for galleries or other distribution, is part of the discussion AP is having with Mr. Fairey's representative," Colford said.

A New York Times book on the election, just published by Penguin Group (USA), includes the image. A Vermont-based publisher, Chelsea Green, also used it—credited solely to Fairey—as the cover for Robert Kuttner's "Obama's Challenge," an economic manifesto released in September. Chelsea Green president Margo Baldwin said that Fairey did not ask for money, only that the publisher make a donation to the National Endowment for the Arts.

"It's a wonderful piece of art, but I wish he had been more careful about the licensing of it," said Baldwin, who added that Chelsea Green gave $2,500 to the NEA.

Fairey also used the AP photograph for an image designed specially for the Obama inaugural committee, which charged anywhere from $100 for a poster to $500 for a poster signed by the artist.

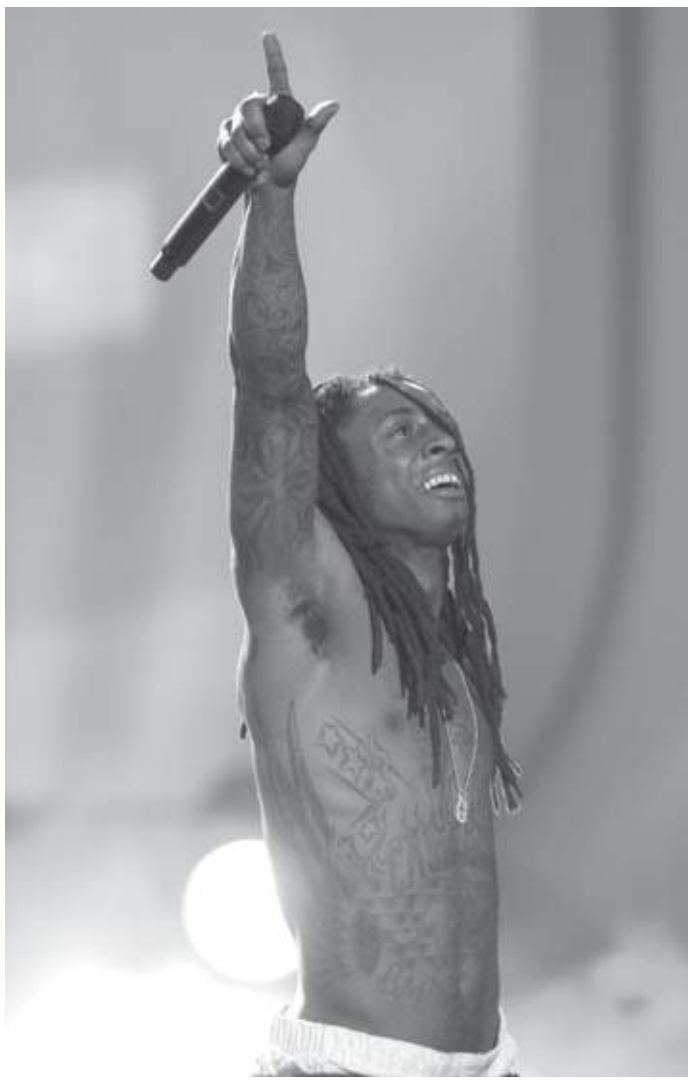
Fairey has said that he first designed the image a year ago after he was encouraged by the Obama campaign to come up with some kind of artwork. Last spring, he showed a letter to The Washington Post that came from the candidate.

"Dear Shepard," the letter reads. "I would like to thank you for using your talent in support of my campaign. The political messages involved in your work have encouraged Americans to believe they can help change the status quo. Your images have a profound effect on people, whether seen in a gallery or on a stop sign."

At first, Obama's team just encouraged him to make an image, Fairey has said. But soon after he created it, a worker involved in the campaign asked if Fairey could make an image from a photo to which the campaign had rights

"I donated an image to them, which they used. It was the one that said "Change" underneath it. And then later on I did another one that said "Vote" underneath it, that had Obama smiling," he said in a December 2008 interview with an underground photography Web site.

Lil Wayne faces climb in getting best album trophy



AP

In this Tuesday June 24, 2008 file photo, Lil Wayne performs at the BET Awards in Los Angeles.

NEW YORK (AP)—Although the Grammys were slow to recognize hip-hop, over the past decade, rap acts have enjoyed a bevy of Grammy nominations, often emerging as the leader when nominations are announced. This year, rap leads the way again, with the omnipresent rapper Lil Wayne receiving eight nominations.

While the bulk of Lil Wayne's nominations come in the rap categories, he's nominated for arguably the most coveted award of the night—album of the year—for "Tha Carter III." Given that the CD was not only 2008's best-selling album but also delivered two of the year's biggest singles—"Lollipop" and "A Milli"—it would seem that momentum is on Lil Wayne's side.

Yet if the past is any indicator, Lil Wayne may go home empty-handed in the album category, with his wins contained in the rap categories. While, rap or hip-hop albums have been nominated every year for a best album Grammy since 2000 (2006 was the exception), its two victories—Lauryn Hill's "The Miseducation of Lauryn Hill" in 2000 and OutKast's "Speakerboxxx/The Love Below" in 2004—have been for hip-hop albums highlighted by the artists' musicality, not their rhyming skills.

"Lil Wayne indisputably made the best album of 2008," said Blender's editor-in-chief Joe Levy. "Now, are the voters going to recognize it by sending him home with a small truckload of Grammys? Hard to say. Hip-hop still remains challenging to Grammy voters, who include guys who were making records 40 years ago."

That's not to say that rap has gotten a bad rap from Grammy voters. Dr. Dre has been recognized as producer of the year among his multiple Grammy wins, Jay-Z has four, Eminem has eight trophies and Kanye West owns 10.

But Eminem has lost in the best-album category twice (the first was famously to Steely Dan in 2001) and Kanye West has lost the category three times.

Danyel Smith, editor-in-chief of Vibe magazine, thinks this year might be different for Lil Wayne.

"I think he does have an even better chance because a lot of his rapping is very melodic," said Smith of Wayne, whose is known as much for his gravelly singing voice as he is his frenetic rapping style.

"I also think as time goes on, there are a lot more people on the voting committee ... who are, if not actual fans of hip-hop, understand it more, and understand the significance of hip-hop as part of pop music and not sort of its step-cousin."

If Lil Wayne does win, he'll have to beat back tough competition. Coldplay, who received the second-most nominations with seven, are nominated for "Viva La Vida Or Death And All His Friends"; Radiohead, who have been nominated before in the category are again recognized for "In Rainbows"; R&B singer-songwriter Ne-Yo is cited for his "Year of the Gentleman"; as is "Raising Sand," the unlikely collaboration between Robert Plant and Alison Krauss.

Darius "Deezle" Harrison, a producer on "Tha Carter III," said he and Lil Wayne are excited just to be nominated, and noted that dreams of Grammy trophies were on their minds when they worked on the CD.

"We were talking in the studio, and he was like man, 'I wanna get Grammys this year,'" Harrison recalled. "I looked at him and I said, 'We're gonna get Grammys this year,' and he looked at me and gave me a pound, and said, 'Believe that.' And we're here, nominated for a bunch of Grammys. Hopefully we'll bring them all home."

Springsteen says he's 'furious' with Ticketmaster

TRENTON, N.J. (AP)—Bruce Springsteen said Wednesday that he is angry with Ticketmaster and believes its selling practices constitute a conflict of interest.

When tickets for Springsteen's show at New Jersey's Meadowlands went on sale Monday, some fans got an error message on their computer screen that shut them out. The potential ticket-buyers then saw an ad for Ticketmaster subsidiary TicketsNow offering tickets for hundreds of dollars more than face value.

Springsteen said on his Web site Wednesday that he and the E Street Band are "furious."

"We perceive this as a pure conflict of interest," the band said. "Ticketmaster is there to ensure that we have a good, fair sale of our tickets at their face value plus normal ticketing charges."

TicketsNow allows people who have tickets to exchange, trade or sell them at marked-up prices. The band said it has received assurances from Ticketmaster that it will stopped redirect Springsteen fans to TicketsNow.

The snub to Springsteen fans on Monday prompted U.S. Rep. Bill Pascrell to call on the Federal Trade Commission and Justice Department to investigate possible conflicts of interest involving Ticketmaster and TicketsNow. The New Jersey attorney general's office is also investigating whether Ticketmaster has violated any consumer fraud or ticket resale laws.

Springsteen

Several phone messages left Wednesday for Ticketmaster Entertainment Inc. spokesman Albert Lopez were not returned. On Tuesday, a company spokesman said only a few fans reported problems.

But state attorney general's spokesman David Wald said the office has received more than 250 complaints since Monday.

Heather Dunham, of Great Meadows, said she and about a dozen of her friends were among those who tried to buy tickets when they went on sale Monday.

"The Web site just kept throwing us all off, telling you it was down for routine maintenance. That's the same message we got routinely for the better part of an hour," she said. "Then it started redirecting us to the premium ticket site," where prices were double.

"It was outrageous," said Dunham, who has previously purchased Springsteen tickets from Ticketmaster. "It's corporate greed at its worst."

Ackerman sci-fi, horror collection up for sale

LOS ANGELES (AP)—He always vowed that he wouldn't die unless he could take it with him.

But now that Forrest J Ackerman really is gone, the grand old man of science fiction's memorabilia collection is on the auction block.

Thousands of items, including the Count Dracula ring worn by Bela Lugosi in the 1931 horror classic "Dracula," the vampire cape Lugosi wore for decades—even the actor's outfit from the "worst film ever made," Ed Wood's cheesy "Plan 9 From Outer Space"—are going up for bid.

So are such notable pieces as a signed, first-edition copy of Mary Shelley's novel "Frankenstein" and a first-edition copy of Bram Stoker's "Dracula" that was signed not only by Stoker but also Lugosi, Boris Karloff and numerous other horror film notables.

The auction, tentatively scheduled for the last week of April, is expected to raise $500,000, said Joe Maddalena, president of Profiles in History, which is handling the sale.

Ackerman, the science-fiction writer, editor and literary agent widely credited with coining the term sci-fi, spent a lifetime collecting tens of thousands of pieces, ranging from the junky to the very rare. He died last December at age 92.

"I'm holding that stuff in my hand and I'm just like, 'Wow, these are his most iconic treasurers,'" Maddalena said when he was invited by Ackerman's estate to auction the collection. He said Ackerman's will stipulates that his estate's share of the profits be divided among his friends.

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Pink Panther 2

Friday		4:10	7:10	9:40
Saturday	1:15	4:10	7:10	9:40
Sunday	1:15	4:10	7:10	
Mon and Tues		4:10	7:10	

Steve Martin, Andy Garcia
Comedy, Mystery • Rated PG

Synopsis
The continuing adventures of Inspector Jacques Clouseau. When legendary treasures from around the world are stolen, including the priceless Pink Panther Diamond, Chief Inspector Dreyfus (John Cleese) is forced to assign Clouseau to a team of international detectives and experts charged with cathcing the thief and retrieving the stolen artifacts.

Push

Friday		4:15	7:30	9:30
Saturday	1:10	4:15	7:30	9:30
Sunday	1:10	4:15	7:30	
Mon and Tues		4:15	7:30	

Chris Evans, Dakota Fanning
Thriller Supernatural • Rated PG 13

Synopsis
The Division, a shadowy government agency, is genetically transforming citizens into an army of psychic warriors and brutally disposing of those unwilling to participate. Nick Gant, a second-generation telekinetic or mover, has been in hiding since the Division murdered his father more than a decade earlier. He has found sanctuary in densely populated Hong Kong, the last safe place on earth for fugitive psychics like him, but only if he can keep his secret a gift.

Ang Tanging Ina N'yong Lahat

Friday		4:25	7:20	9:50
Saturday	1:30	4:25	7:20	9:50
Sunday	1:30	4:25	7:20	
Mon and Tues		4:25	7:20	

Ai-Ai de las Alas, Eugene Domingo
Comedy • Rated PG

Synopsis
With the one, big, happy family that she has, any woman would admire Ina Montecillo (Ai-Ai de las Alas) as the embodiment of a perfect mother. But after more than 40 years of doing everything for her family, she realizes she hasn't done anything for herself. Ina then embarks on a journey of finding her self-worth that surprisingly lands her as the president of the Philippines!

Coraline

Friday		4:05	7:25	9:35
Saturday	1:20	4:05	7:25	9:35
Sunday	1:20	4:05	7:25	
Mon and Tues		4:05	7:25	

Dakota Fanning, John Hodgman
Fantasy, Animated • Rated PG

He's Just Not That Into You

Friday		4:00	7:00	9:45
Saturday	1:00	4:00	7:00	9:45
Sunday	1:00	4:00	7:00	
Mon and Tues		4:00	7:00	

Jennifer Aniston, Scarlett Johansson
Romatic Comedy • Rated PG 13

★ ★ ★

Taken

Friday		4:30	7:15	9:55
Saturday	1:25	4:30	7:15	9:55
Sunday	1:25	4:30	7:15	
Mon and Tues		4:30	7:15	

Liam Neeson, Maggie Grace
Action, Drama, Thriller • Rated PG 13

Paul Blart, Mall Cop

Friday		4:20	7:05	10:00
Saturday	1:05	4:20	7:05	10:00
Sunday	1:05	4:20	7:05	
Mon and Tues		4:20	7:05	

Kevin James, Jayma Mays
Comedy • Rated PG

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Ties still bind wife to mom after five years of marriage

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: Five years ago, I married a 40-year-old woman I'll call "Phyllis." We had dated for eight years. My problem is, after all this time Phyllis still has not moved into my home. She has never moved any of her personal belongings in either. And she runs home to her mother's house six days a week.

When I try to talk to Phyllis about this, she tells me she will bring her "stuff" over, but then she returns to her mother's and nothing changes. Please tell me what to do.

LONELY SPOUSE IN NEW JERSEY

DEAR LONELY SPOUSE: It appears your wife is having an unusually hard time severing the umbilical cord with her mother, who may not even be aware that her daughter has a husband. Because you and Phyllis are so far apart on the amount of togetherness it takes to nurture a successful marriage, offer her the option of marriage counseling. If she refuses, you should consult a lawyer.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I have a set of beautiful rosary beads I received after my mother's passing. I brought them to work and put them on to show a co-worker, and I received comments from three different people about how they never saw anyone wear rosary beads as a necklace. They said they weren't sure it was appropriate.

It made me very uncomfortable, so I took the rosary off. I would not want to be disrespectful. Could you find out if it is appropriate to wear rosary beads as a necklace?

VAL IN MASSACHUSETTS

DEAR VAL: While putting the rosary beads on may have made you feel closer to your mother, and your intention was to display them for your co-workers, rosaries are not an item of jewelry, and they are not intended to be worn. Rosary beads are an aid to prayer, meant to move gently through your fingers while praying.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: This is in response to "Protective Lioness" (Dec. 3) and to you, regarding the man who took his 13-year-old son to lunch at a restaurant that features "scantily clad waitresses." You said you wondered what "other indiscretions" he would have his son hide.

Sorry, Abby, but you both overreacted to the situation. Her husband may have asked his son to keep it to himself because he knew his wife would react the way she did. If my husband took one of our teenage sons to such a place once and didn't tell me right away—so what?

And why such a big deal over a little skin (and probably cleavage) showing? I often see less clothing on young women when I'm out shopping for groceries! And honestly, when did it get to the point that a couple must know in down-to-the-minute detail everything a spouse/lover has done while away from the other?

"Protective Lioness" doesn't sound so much "protective" as she does insecure. It makes me wonder who she's more upset about seeing the waitress—her son or her spouse?

A MOM IN THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST

DEAR MOM: You're right. I did react strongly to that letter. I viewed the problem through the prism of my own experience. To me the important issue wasn't the amount of flesh that was showing in the restaurant. It was the husband telling his son not to disclose something to his mother. It didn't strike me as off-base that the woman would be upset—not at the choice of restaurants, but at the idea that the father would instruct his son to "take sides" and keep her in the dark.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Good advice for everyone—teens to seniors—is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

James Franco wins Harvard Hasty Pudding award

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. (AP)—James Franco, who won recent acclaim for playing both a goofy pot dealer and Harvey Milk's lover, has been named Harvard's Hasty Pudding Man of the Year.

Franco will receive the award at a roast Feb. 13 by the Hasty Pudding—the nation's oldest undergraduate drama troupe.

The 31-year-old actor was nominated for a Golden Globe for his supporting role in "Pineapple Express" and starred opposite Sean Penn in "Milk." He has appeared in TV's "Freaks and Geeks" and the "Spider Man" trilogy and portrayed James Dean in the TNT biopic.

Renee Zellweger will be honored as the Hasty Pudding Woman of the Year on Thursday. Last year's honorees were Christopher Walken and Charlize Theron.

AP

This Nov. 13, 2008 file photo shows actor James Franco arriving at the premiere of the film "Milk" at the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences in Beverly Hills.

Shakira's gift: hometown school

BARRANQUILLA, Colombia (AP)—As a teenager, the pop star Shakira fought illiteracy, teaching reading at a parochial school in the humble La Playa district of her hometown on Colombia's Caribbean coast.

Her gift to La Playa is now considerably bigger.

The multiple Grammy winner dedicated a $6 million school on Wednesday sponsored by her foundation, Pies Descalzos, which means "barefoot" in Spanish.

The black-gowned Shakira was accompanied by President Alvaro Uribe, who decorated her with a medal. The 13,000-square-meter (140,000-sq.-ft.) school will cater to 1,800 students and is the fifth the singer-songwriter's foundation has built.

Shakira said her foundation's work is all about "breaking the myth that quality education is the privilege of the few."

AP

Colombia's pop star Shakira, left, greets a girl during the inauguration of the fifth school her foundation "Barefeet" has built, in Barranquilla, Colombia, Wednesday, Feb. 4, 2009. The school will host 1,800 students.

Emmy Awards open field to more nominees

LOS ANGELES (AP)—More TV shows and stars will be going for the gold at this fall's Emmy Awards ceremony.

The TV academy's board of governors voted to expand the number of nominees from five to six in 10 major prime-time Emmy categories, including best comedy and drama series and lead actor and actress in a comedy and drama.

The change announced Wednesday is intended to accommodate what the TV academy called "an abundance of outstanding programs and performances" and follows a review of voting patterns. Final voting is unchanged.

The review found a series of ties over the past three years already had produced plenty of six-nominee categories, including the 2008 drama series in which AMC's "Mad Men" was the winner.

'Idol' cuts more hopefuls in 2nd Hollywood round

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"American Idol" is another step closer to revealing its 36 semifinalists.

Following group performances by the remaining 104 crooners, host Ryan Seacrest announced at the end of Wednesday's episode that about 75 hopefuls made it through to the next round of Hollywood Week on the eighth season of the popular Fox singing competition.

Much of the episode focused on bickering and sobbing singers rather than their group routines performed for the judges.

Among the hopefuls cut: Katrina "Bikini Girl" Darrell, confrontational Nancy Wilson, happy-go-lucky Austin Sisneros, dreadlocked Rose Flack, Southern belle Deanna Brown and David Osmond, the son of the eldest singing Osmond brother.

ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

'Fringe' co-stars Anna Torv and Mark Valley wed

NEW YORK (AP)—Life imitates art at the Fox series "Fringe," where co-stars Anna Torv and Mark Valley have wed. Torv's representative, Jen Turner, says the couple were married in December. She didn't provide any details. Torv, 29, plays FBI Special Agent Olivia Dunham on "Fringe." Valley, 44, played Dunham's partner and secret lover, agent John Scott, when the series began last fall. But their relationship took a mysterious turn when Scott was seemingly killed and exposed as Dunham's apparent betrayer.

Actor to stand trial in San Diego in attack on ex

VISTA, Calif. (AP)—An actor who appeared in "The 40-Year-Old Virgin" has been ordered to stand trial in the stabbing of his ex-girlfriend. A Superior Court judge ruled Wednesday that enough evidence exists to try Shelley Malil on premeditated attempted murder and other charges. Malil is accused of stabbing Kendra Beebe 23 times last August in her backyard in San Diego County. A district attorney's investigator says Beebe told her she knew Malil for about a year but ended the relationship when he became "very possessive and jealous." Prosecutors say Malil could face life in prison if convicted of all charges. Malil played a co-worker, Haziz, to comedian Steve Carell's title character in "The 40-Year-Old Virgin."

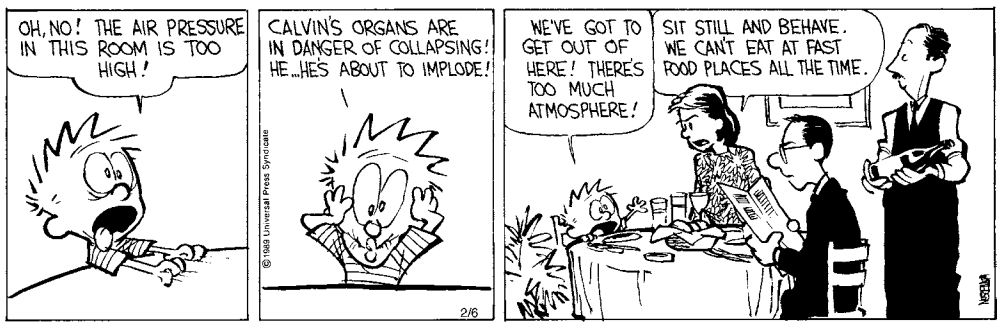
Rising Polish star replaces tenor for Met telecast

NEW YORK (AP)—A Polish tenor who is one of opera's rising stars will replace famed tenor Rolando Villazon in a Metropolitan Opera performance transmitted live to movie theaters worldwide, the Met announced Wednesday. Opera fans' ears will be tuned to tenor Piotr Beczala on Saturday afternoon, when he sings the part of Edgardo in Donizetti's "Lucia di Lammermoor." The Met said Villazon was ill with a cold. Saturday's performance is part of "The Met: Live in HD" series, which reaches hundreds of movie theaters and other venues in the United States, Asia and Europe, including Beczala's homeland. With his robust, appealing sound, the 42-year-old singer has quickly become one of the Met's favorite lyric tenors since his debut there two years ago as the Duke in Verdi's "Rigoletto." He sang the role of Edgardo to public and critical acclaim last October and is appearing in Tchaikovsky's "Eugene Onegin." In Europe, Beczala made his debut at London's Royal Opera House in 2004 and at Milan's Teatro alla Scala in 2006. Other members of the cast for Saturday's "Lucia" remain as scheduled, including the Russian-born star soprano Anna Netrebko.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


OH, NO! THE AIR PRESSURE IN THIS ROOM IS TOO HIGH!
CALVIN'S ORGANS ARE IN DANGER OF COLLAPSING! HE...HE'S ABOUT TO IMPLODE!
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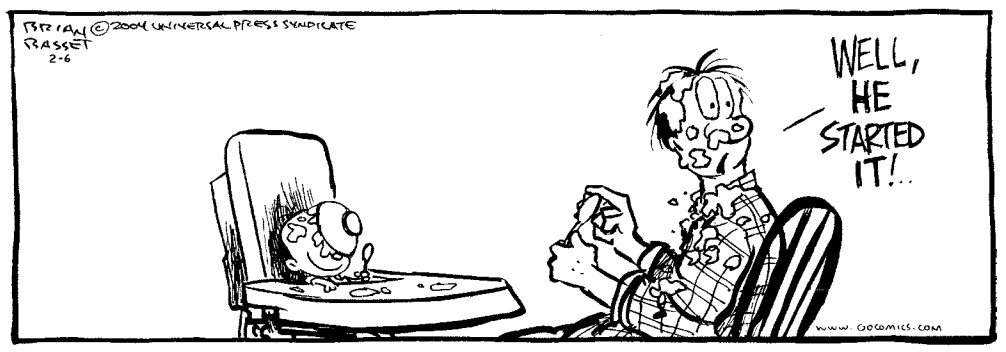
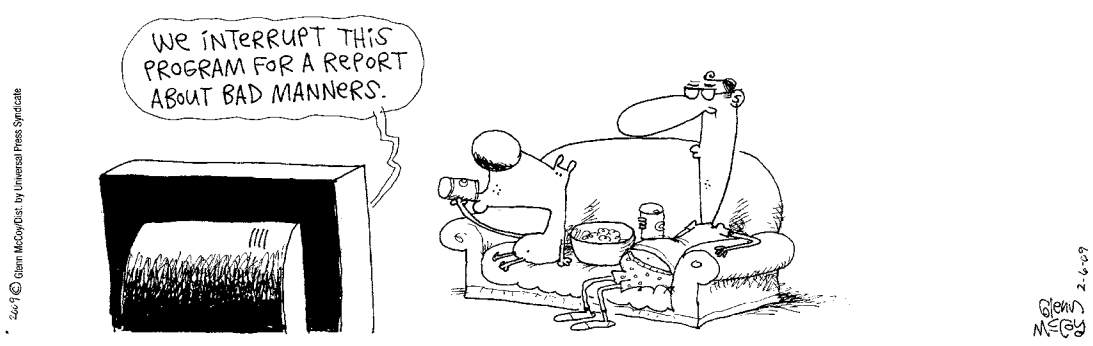
By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


WE INTERRUPT THIS PROGRAM FOR A REPORT ABOUT BAD MANNERS.
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Glenn McCoy 2-6-09

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 The girl
4 Scoot
8 Calculator symbol
12 Parcel of land
13 Ethereal
14 Prevalent
15 Hardly a fussy eater?
17 "Once — a time, ..."
18 Lighthouse light
19 Blue
21 Timecard abbr.
22 Brunch entree
26 Pal of D'Artagnan
29 Use 35-Across
30 "That feels so good!"
31 Yonder, to an old salt
32 Shade
33 Remedy
34 Mal de —
35 Stovetop item
36 Move laterally
37 Greek concluders
39 One for the road?
40 Egos' counterparts
41 Emphasize
45 Crony
48 Navel
50 Hair salon request
51 Diligence
52 Mud bath site
53 Actress Hathaway
54 Wield needles
55 Always, in verse

DOWN
1 Unkempt one
2 Base runner's goal
3 Sicilian spouter
4 Partygoers' mementos
5 They have their pride
6 Mess up
7 Unpleasant sight
8 Overly decorous one
9 Back talk
10 Martian craft
11 Sun Yat- —
16 Blood of the gods
20 Rocker Winehouse
23 Praise to the skies
24 Count counterpart
25 Quaker's address
26 Prefix with "sphere"
27 Outsiders
28 Aesopian also-ran
29 Enjoyment
32 Footstool
33 Approximately
35 Cushion
36 Potpourri pouch
38 Greedy kid's cry
39 Pants style named for an island
42 Differently
43 "Unh-unh"
44 Despot
45 Bookkeeper (Abbr.)
46 Female lobster
47 Coffee vessel
49 Fellow

Solution time: 25 mins.

A	H	A	B	■	P	I	A	F	■	R	E	D
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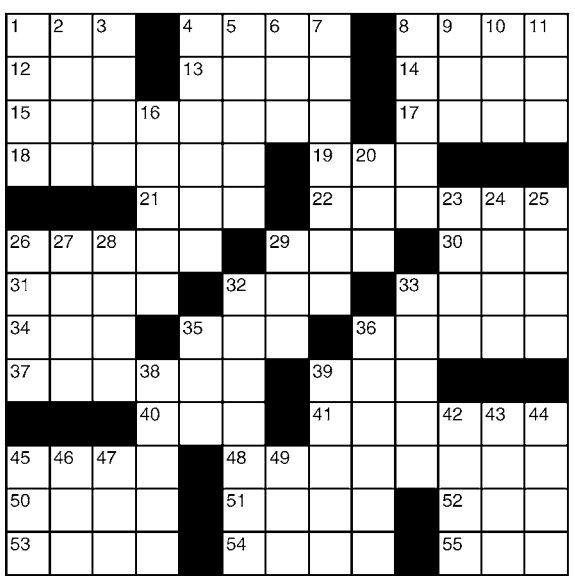
■	■	M	A	S	T	S	■	I	T	■	■	■
T	E	M	P	T	■	■	A	R	O	M	A	S
O	V	A	■	R	O	O	S	E	V	E	L	T
G	E	T	■	A	U	R	A	■	E	A	S	E
O	N	E	■	P	R	E	P	■	S	L	O	W

Yesterday's answer 2-6



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Masaharu Fukuyama, 40; Axl Rose, 47; Natalie Cole, 59; Tom Brokaw, 69

Happy Birthday: It's difficult to forgive and forget but this is the year and the time to do so. There are many new circumstances and situations to deal with, so open your mind and your heart to the truth. You will realize what needs to be done in order for you to feel good and confident about your future. Your numbers are 3, 10, 17, 24, 27, 30, 43

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Don't count on getting help from others but be prepared to do all you can for the people you love and the organizations you believe in. It may appear to be a time of constant giving but what goes around, comes around. ✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Take time off and avoid some of the hassles that work can present. Spend time with friends, family or the one you love. Now is not the time to make a decision that will influence your future or cause you regrets later on. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): There are plenty of opportunities to do things that can lead to greater success and achievement. Get involved in groups that offer support and intellectual stimulation. A love interest will open up. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): You'll be emotional and personal matters will make it difficult for you to concentrate on tasks you must complete. If you need a moment to regroup, take it before you make a costly mistake. Be patient. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): You need a change of pace or place. You have to remember what life is all about and how you can get back to some of the fun things you used to do. Someone from your past will open your eyes. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): You can mastermind some very interesting deals that will help put you ahead of the crowd. Put time aside to rest and rejuvenate. A medical issue or a debt you owe should be taken care of quickly. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Don't trust anyone who is acting on emotions and not common sense. If you meddle, you will face problems with your position. Spend your time developing your own ideas and networking with people who can help you get ahead. ✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Focus on investments, games of chance, legal matters and settlements in order to bring in some extra cash. A sudden change in direction and status will be a direct result of the people with whom you connect. ✪✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): You may need to be inventive regarding your vocation and direction in life. If you consider what your dreams, hopes and wishes were in the past, you may be able to incorporate some of them into your life now. Don't let setbacks deter you. ✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): You'll be emotionally caught up in something that someone says or does. Don't let this turn into a costly affair. Be careful what you divulge and how you handle yourself. Love relationships can take a turn, so protect your heart. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Don't let love cost you financially or cause you to lose touch with friends who mean something to you. If someone puts demands on you or is trying to control your life, move on and start anew. Don't let matters escalate. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Make some alterations at home to add to your comfort and lessen your workload and stress. Collect old debts and rectify problems that have been holding you back. Amends can be made but, if it was your fault, make the first move. ✪✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are emotional, sensitive and compassionate. You always help a friend in need and you like to be in control.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun,* ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

3		2			4			
	5	7		1			6	
					8			1
						1	2	4
5	9	3						
9			6					
	2			4		5	7	
			1			3		9

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 2/06

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

3	7	1	2	6	4	8	5	9
2	9	5	8	1	3	4	6	7
8	6	4	9	5	7	3	2	1
4	2	6	7	8	9	5	1	3
5	1	8	3	4	6	7	9	2
9	3	7	1	2	5	6	8	4
7	8	9	6	3	1	2	4	5
6	5	3	4	9	2	1	7	8
1	4	2	5	7	8	9	3	6

Difficulty Level ★★★ 2/05

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

HEALTHY LUNCHES Solution: 7 letters

H	H	C	A	N	I	P	S	R	E	P	P	E	P	N
C	T	H	G	I	L	D	O	(H)	(O)	(M)	(E)	U	O	A
I	F	I	B	E	R	E	Y	E	N	I	B	M	O	C
W	V	C	D	E	H	C	A	O	P	B	L	O	I	S
D	E	K	R	T	U	N	A	S	A	A	S	C	E	L
N	E	E	L	E	O	A	A	N	S	R	T	T	C	N
A	R	N	L	R	T	L	C	E	T	C	I	O	H	O
S	F	F	I	A	A	A	L	E	A	H	R	R	I	I
N	R	R	R	D	R	B	W	R	W	I	F	T	C	T
I	A	U	G	R	A	L	A	G	D	V	R	I	K	A
M	G	I	O	T	O	L	G	N	O	E	I	L	P	R
A	U	T	E	W	T	E	I	D	A	S	E	L	E	E
T	S	G	F	R	A	W	K	C	A	N	S	A	A	D
I	E	A	L	M	O	N	D	S	E	K	A	H	S	O
V	T	H	E	R	M	O	S	D	R	A	T	S	U	M

© 2009 Universal Press Syndicate www.wonderword.com 2/6

Almonds, Bananas, Carrots, Chicken, Chickpeas, Chives, Combine, Crab, Diet, Egg whites, Fiber, Fruit, Green, Grill, Home, Iron, Light, Lime, Low fat, Moderation, Mustard, Pasta, Peppers, Poached, Raw, Salad, Salmon, Sandwich, Shakes, Snack, Soup, Soya, Spinach, Stir fries, Sugar free, Thermos, Tortilla, Tuna, Vegetables, Vitamins, Water, Well-balanced

Yesterday's Answer: Disclosure

SALE: The topics of "Wonderword for Kids" appeal to younger fans but the puzzle difficulty matches what you've come to expect from Wonderword. For a limited time, the book is on sale for just $4 each (U.S. funds only), payable to Universal Press Syndicate. Include $3 postage for the first book order, $1 each for each additional book. Send to Wonderword, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, Mo. 64106 or call toll-free, 1-800-642-5480. **Order online at upuzzles.com.**

CLASSIFIED ADS

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 7-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $25 per 3 liner ad for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of below packages that fits your budget.

ADS (7DAYS)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$25
• 5-Liner	$35
• 3-Liner with picture	$45
• 5-Liner with picture	$55

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

"I want to go shopping!"

MAKE-A-WISH®

Visit us at 865 S. Marine Dr.,
Orlean Pacific Plaza Ste. 104 Tamuning, Guam 96913
Tel: (671) 649-WISH • Fax: (671) 646-6293
Email: mawfguam@ite.net • www.wish.org
Office Hours: 8:30am-5:30pm, M-F daily

Saipan Tribune

YCO CORPORATION

is looking for the following positions:

COOK & BAKER

Cook must have experience in Local, Japanese, Mexican and American cuisine.

Applicant may submit their resume at 3rd floor Yumul Bldg. Garapan, Saipan (Strictly no phone call)

Manager Trainee

If you are a leader with a management background, we would like to meet you.

Minimum Qualifications:

- 2 years experience in managing 10 or more employees
- Must be computer proficient
- High school diploma
- Drivers license/transportation
- Excellent spoken and written English communication skills
- Problem solving skills
- Ability to meet weekly deadlines

Starting salary negotiable based on experience, and work history. Benefits include100% medical & dental, paid vacations, paid sick time, paid holidays, and more!

No calls please. Send resume' and salary history to: drtojoanne@teleguam.net

DIAL Rent-to-Own

250 Guerrero Dr. Suite 101
Tamuning, GU 96910

WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

LAUGH

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Find today's solution in this section

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

House for rent or lease in As Lito, 4 bedroom, 2 1/2 bathroom. For more info. pls. call 234-6695

• 3br, 1bath house • 2br, 2bath house. Nice view of Mangaha w/ swimming pool. Available in Capitol Hill. Call 322-5717

LOST PASSPORT

Name : Chen Faen
Date of Birth : June 24, 1955
Passport No. : G08687178
Contact No. : 235-7988

WANTED

BOAT CAPTAIN

25 TON LIC. MINIMUM
FULL TIME
For more info please call 287-2732

WHATZIT Solution: Laugh on the other side of one's face

AUTOMOTIVE

For Sale 2004 Nissan Sentra, 4dr, auto. trans. Good condition. $5,900. Call Zheng @ 287-7676

LOST PASSPORT

Name : Cui Guangshan
Date of Birth : Jan. 29, 1958
Passport No. : P1780746
Contact No. : 483-8085

Computer Repair

Only $25 Minor Problem
WE ALSO FIX LAPTOP & USED PARTS
233-5641 Open 7 Day a Week 9:00 AM-9:00 PM

USED CARS FOR SALE
Mechanic's Specials

2004	Ford E-350
2003	Ford Focus SE
2003	Ford Taurus SE
2002	Suzuki Grand Vitara
2001	Hyundai XG300
2000	Toyota Sienna CE

Call Ben @ 234-7133

SHAKIR'S REALTY & INSURANCE
1ST FLOOR, SUITE 103 SHAKIR BLDG II, BEACH RD., CHALAN KANOA, SAIPAN.
TEL. 234-5152 • 287-2254
(WE BUY, SELL, LEASE, RENT PROPERTIES)

RENTALS

3br, 2bth house, Capital Hill	$900/mo.
4br, 2bth house, Tototville	$950/mo.
4br, 3bth house, Gualo Rai	$900/mo.
3br, 2bth house, Garapan	$950/mo.

APARTMENTS

2br, 1bth furnished, Beach Rd. CK w/ WiFi	$400/mo.
Spacious studio furnished, Gualo Rai w/ WiFi	$300/mo.
2br, 1bth furnished, CK	$350/mo.
2br, 1bth furnished, Dandan	$350/mo.
1br, 1bth furnished, Susupe	$275/mo.
2br, 1bth w/ swimming pool	$750/mo.
Back-up generator	

SALE & LEASE

4br, 2bth house, Dandan, oceanview	$210K
5br, 4bth house, Dandan, oceanview	$250K
4br, 3bth house, Dandan, newly renovated	$140K
4br, 2bth house + 2unit 2br apt. As Terlaje	$160K
3br, 1bth house, Gualo Rai, oceanview	$110K
Executive 5br, 3bth house, w/ swimming pool, Papago. Must see to appreciate	$320K
5br, 3bth house, Kobler with fence	$165K

LAND

We have beach & oceanview properties available

CALL OR VISIT US FOR ALL YOUR REAL ESTATE NEEDS.

OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC AUDITOR

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Opening Date: 02/03/09 Closing Date: CONTINUOUS

POSITION	EXAMINATION NO.
Audit Manager (2) positions	09-010
Senior Auditor (3) positions	09-011
Audit Supervisor (2) positions	09-012
Auditor (4) positions	09-013

For more information , please visit our website at www.opacnmi.com or come visit us at our office in Capitol Hill. Interested persons may also pick up a copy of the Examination Announcements at the Office of Personnel Management (OPA) in Garapan.

Mobil Oil Mariana Islands, Inc. is a subsidiary of Exxon Mobil Corporation, the world's leading petroleum and petrochemical company. Exxon Mobil Corporation and subsidiary companies (collectively "ExxonMobil") have operations throughout the world. This is your opportunity to join this dynamic company and become part of the team that thrives in a fast-paced and controls-oriented environment.

Mobil is seeking to appoint an experienced and qualified individual to fill the position of Bulk Plant Superintendent in Tinian as follows:

Bulk Plant Superintendent – Tinian

As part of the Customer Service function, this role will manage and execute operational activities related to the distribution, handling and storage of products marketed by Mobil Oil Mariana Islands, Inc. in Tinian within the guidance of the corporate safety, health and environmental policies/procedures and government regulatory requirements.

You will be responsible for conducting business transactions within the framework of company "Standards of Business Conduct" and government statutory compliance requirements. Compliance with regulatory and corporate "Safety, Health and Environment" policies and guidelines is an important requirement for this role.

As the Bulk Plant Superintendent, you will be initiating and implementing process efficiencies which will improve operational economies and contribute positively towards financial results.

Skills and Experience required include:

- Supervisory skills and effective interpersonal skills to work with a diverse operating workforce, consultants, contractors, regulators and customers
- Relevant BS degrees from an accredited university
- Successful work experience with inland and marine operations, storage, handling and distribution standards
- Experience in petroleum, oil, and distribution project works is highly desirable but not essential.

This position will be based at the Tinian Bulk Plant in the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

Remuneration will be commensurate with the successful applicant's relevant skills and experience.

****

If you believe you have the qualities required for this position, please e-mail your resume to **katrina.terlaje@exxonmobil.com or fax to (671) 648-3786 by Friday, February 13, 2009.**

Federal law requires that we verify the identity and work eligibility of all new hires.
We comply with this law on a nondiscriminatory basis.

Equal Opportunity Employer

Mobil
We're drivers too.

Make it a daily habit! www.saipantribune.com

Commonwealth 0f the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works

2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Gualo Rai
Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BIDS
DPW09-IFB-006

CONSTRUCTION OF PAVILIONS AT CHALAN KANOA BEACH PARK, SAIPAN

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Timothy P. Villagomez, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for the Construction of Pavilions at Chalan Kanoa Beach Park, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available on or after January 23, 2009 at DPW Technical Services Division, 2nd Floor-Joeten Commercial Building, Oleai Center, Saipan. A non-refundable payment to one Hundred Dollars **(US$100.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division. All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001. Bidding procuredures shall be in compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations. Preference is available to US Citizens or Permanent Residents as per Public Law 15-95 and as further Amended by Public Law 15-118 and must be submitted with the BID or PROPOSAL if preference is claimed.

There will be a Pre-bid Conference for this project on February 10, 2009, 1:00 p.m. local time at the project site located at Chalan Kanoa Beach Park behind Townhouse, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on February 13, 2009 to **Mr. Joseph M. Inos Jr., Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd floor-Joeten Commercial Building, Oleai Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547.

Sealed bids must be marked **"DPW09-IFB-006"**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 1:00 p.m. local time February 18, 2009. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 1:00 p.m. local time February 18, 2009. and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than February 18, 2009, and must be received no later than February 27, 2009. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 1:00 p.m. local time, March 04, 2009. However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 1:00 p.m. local time, on February 23, 2009.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars **($25,000.00)** a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. Bid security may be Certified Check, Cashier's Check or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certificate (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than $25,000.00. The surety company providing the Performance and payment bonds must authorized to conduct business in CNMI and possess unencumbered assets equal to the penal amount of each bond.

Performance time for completion of this project is One Hundred Twenty **(120)** calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages will be assessed at one hundred dollars **(US$100.00)** per working days for delays beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not effect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ DIEGO B. SONGSONG
Secretary of Public Works

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, Procurement & Supply

Northrop Grumman Corporation is seeking candidates for the following positions:

SITE SUPERVISOR

The Northrop Grumman Technical Services Sector USCIS Program Application Support Center (ASC) Site Supervisor is responsible for the overall operation of the ASC and supervises part-time Biometrics Technician. This position is located in **Saipan - Northern Marianas Islands (United States)**, in a new office for the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service. U.S. Citizenship required. Must be able to obtain DHS Security Clearance and pass credit and drug screens.

SALARY: **$13.55** per hour plus a $3.24 per hour Health & Welfare Benefit.

Send your resume to: **Freddie.Sudheimer@ngc.com**.

PART-TIME BIOMETRICS TECHNICIAN

The Northrop Grumman Technical Services Sector USCIS Program Application Support Center part-time Biometrics Technician will be responsible for immigrant biometrics capture. This position is located in **Saipan - Northern Marianas Islands (United States)**, in a new office for the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service. U.S. Citizenship required. Must be able to obtain DHS Security Clearance and pass credit and drug screens.

SALARY: **$11.28** per hour plus a $3.24 per hour Health & Welfare Benefit.

Send your resume to: **Freddie.Sudheimer@ngc.com**.

For all current opportunities, please visit our website:
careers.northropgrumman.com

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LeBron ties Jordan for 50s at MSG

NEW YORK (AP)—Not quite Kobe Bryant. Definitely vintage LeBron James.

James scored a season-high 52 points in his 21st career triple-double, joined Michael Jordan as the only visitors with multiple 50-point games at the present Madison Square Garden, and led Cleveland to a 107-102 victory over New York on Wednesday night.

Two nights after Bryant set a record at the present building with 61 points, James was on pace to break it after scoring 20 in the first quarter.

His scoring eventually tailed off a bit, especially after he briefly left the game in the fourth quarter after cramping up, but the skills that make him perhaps the NBA's premier all-around player remained throughout.

"I don't go out there for the numbers, I just play my game," James said. "You guys seen every phase of my game tonight, the scoring, the rebounding, the assists and defensively just trying to attack the opposing team.

"I never thought you could look at the box score and see somebody with 50 with a triple-double, but it's happened."

James added 11 assists and 10 rebounds, becoming the first player since Kareem Abdul-Jabbar in 1975 to have a triple-double in a 50-point game. James grabbed his final rebound with under 2 seconds left, then tumbled out of bounds as time expired.

"A pretty impressive triple-double," Cleveland's Wally Szczerbiak said. "I bet his fantasy owners are pretty happy."

They were similar numbers to James' game in New York last March, when he finished with 50 points, 10 assists and eight rebounds. Jordan is the only other visiting player to twice score 50 here, with a high of 55 that was the opponent record before Bryant broke it Monday night.

"The sad thing is that I'm sure LeBron said that it's no big deal to get 61 points," Knicks coach Mike D'Antoni said. "I'll just get a triple-double. (Kobe) didn't do that."

Zydrunas Ilgauskas scored 15 points, and Szczerbiak had 12 points and 13 rebounds for the Cavaliers, who have won four straight and eight of nine. They are off until a showdown with Bryant and the Los Angeles Lakers on Sunday in Cleveland, where the Cavaliers are 23-0.

Al Harrington scored 39 points for the Knicks, who fell to 0-2 during they're referring to as "Dream Week," games against the Lakers, Cavs and Boston Celtics. David Lee had 12 points and 10 rebounds.

The focus on James' first trip here in November was his free agency in 2010, days after the Knicks made a pair of trades to clear salary cap space for a run at him. This time, the building was still buzzing from Bryant's performance, and the talk was on whether James could top it.

He said he wouldn't try—unless the situation called for it.

"We go out and try to win ball games. Myself and Kobe go out and win ball games and sometimes we make games like that," James said before the game.

"It just so happens where we get high numbers or we make an unbelievable play. It just happens that way. But we're out there first of all trying to win the basketball game. I never go into a game saying I'm going to try to put up a decent amount of numbers or anything like that. I've never been that type of player."

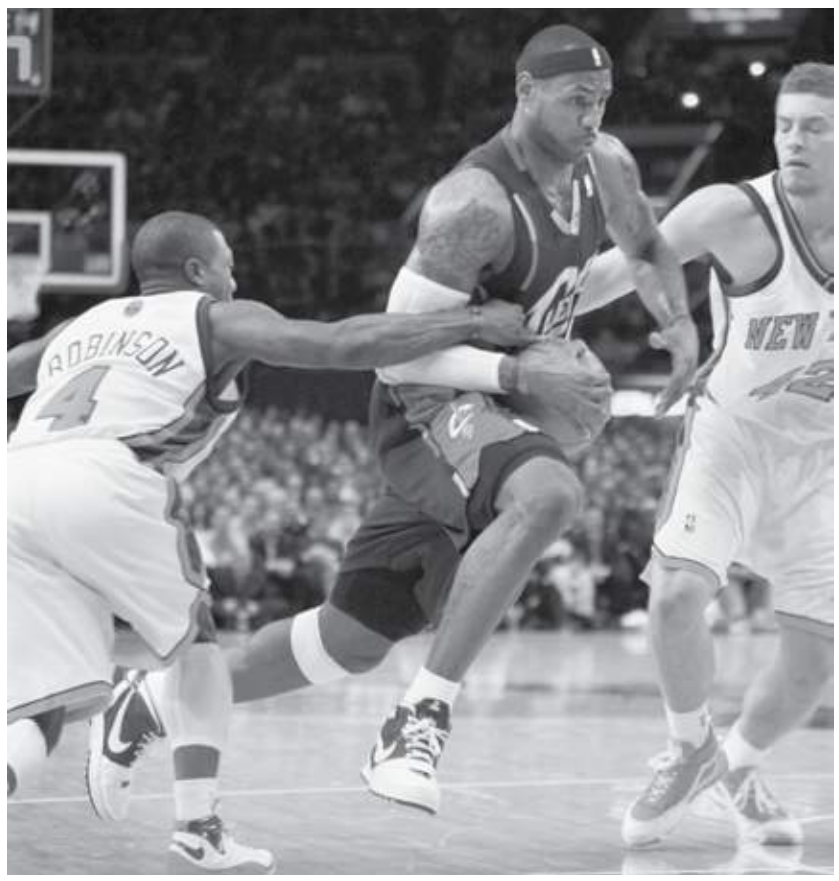
Yet he was looking for his own shot to start and was ahead of Bryant's pace early on, draining a jumper at the buzzer to give him 20 points in the first quarter—two more than Bryant had—and Cleveland a 36-24 lead.

"I felt a few shots go in and just continued to try to work that hand and just try to see if I was really feeling hot, and I was able to knock a few shots down," James said.

The Knicks used a 16-3 spurt to cut a 14-point deficit to 43-42 midway through the second, but the Cavs came out of a timeout with a play that led to an alley-oop pass for James' dunk. He had 28 in the half, then found Ben Wallace alone for a layup as time expired that sent Cleveland to the locker room with a 57-52 advantage.

Unlike Monday, when the MSG crowd loudly cheered for Bryant, the fans were behind the Knicks in this one. They responded with a spirited performance after being blown out in the previous two meetings with Cleveland—James didn't even play in the fourth quarter of either—and were down only one with 2 minutes to play.

James then scored on a drive to give him 50 points, and set up Ilgauskas for a bucket that gave the Cavs breathing room at 104-100 with 52 seconds remaining.



AP

New York Knicks guard Nate Robinson (4) and New York Knicks center David Lee (42) try to block Cleveland Cavaliers forward LeBron James (23) as he drives toward the basket in the second quarter of their NBA basketball game at Madison Square Garden in New York, Wednesday, Feb. 4, 2009.

Mavericks 104, Trail Blazers 99

In Dallas, Josh Howard scored 23 points to lead Dallas over Portland.

Jason Terry added 20 points, while Jason Kidd had ten assists to move into fourth place on the career assist list, surpassing Oscar Robertson.

Portland slipped 2-1/2 games behind Northwest Division leader Denver.

Lakers 115, Raptors 107

In Toronto, Los Angeles notched its fourth straight win by seeing off Toronto.

Kobe Bryant scored 36 points and Pau Gasol added 31 for the Lakers, who tuned up for Thursday's game against the Celtics—their first trip to Boston since losing last season's NBA finals.

The Raptors have lost four straight and All-Star Chris Bosh went off with a sprained right knee in the final quarter.

Pistons 93, Heat 90

In Auburn Hills, Michigan, Rodney Stuckey hit two jump shots in the final 90 seconds to get Detroit home against Miami.

Stuckey finished with 18 points for the Pistons.

Bulls 107, Hornets 93

In New Orleans, the hosts slumped to their fourth straight loss, beaten by Chicago.

Derrick Rose scored 21 points, and Ben Gordon had 19 for the Bulls.

New Orleans star Chris Paul missed the game because of a strained right groin.

Magic 126, Clippers 96

In Orlando, Florida, Anthony Johnson had a season-high 25 points for Orlando in place of injured All-Star point guard Jameer Nelson, leading Orlando over Los Angeles.

Johnson took control in the Magic's first game since Nelson tore the labrum in his right shoulder, and doubled his regular-season career high with six 3-pointers. He was 6-for-8 from the beyond the arc and the Magic made 16 3-pointers.

The Clippers have lost seven straight.

Hawks 94, Timberwolves 86

In Minneapolis, Marvin Williams had 23 points and 10 rebounds in Atlanta's win over Minnesota.

Josh Smith added 19 points and seven rebounds, while Mike Bibby had 24 points and seven assists for the Hawks.

Nuggets 114, Thunder 113

In Oklahoma City, Carmelo Anthony scored 32 points, including the winning basket with five seconds left, to help Denver pip Oklahoma City.

It was the Nuggets' third game in a row.

Grizzlies 104, Rockets 93

In Memphis, Tennessee, O.J. Mayo piled on 32 points as Memphis comfortably beat Houston.

Rudy Gay had 18 points and nine rebounds for the Grizzlies.

Warriors 124, Suns 112

In Oakland, California, Stephen Jackson had 30 points, 11 rebounds and 10 assists for his first career triple-double, spurring Golden State to victory over Phoenix.

The Warriors started the game on a 17-2 run to set up the win.

Nets 115, Wizards 88

In Washington, New Jersey shot a season-high 61 percent to thrash an undermanned Washington.

Devin Harris scored 26 points to top the scoring for the Nets, who made 12 of 22 3-pointers and turned the game into a rout by outscoring the Wizards 35-18 in the third quarter.

Phelps: 'I have to live with fallout from photo'

BALTIMORE (AP)—Olympic champion Michael Phelps said Wednesday it has been difficult coping with the fallout from a photo of him smoking from a marijuana pipe. "It's something I am going to have to live with and something I'll have to grow from," Phelps told The Associated Press outside the pool where he trains. "I know with all of the mistakes I made, I learned from them and that is what I expect to do from this. By no means it is fun for me, by no means is it easy."

It was the first time Phelps had publicly addressed the photo since issuing an apology Sunday after it surfaced in a British tabloid over the weekend.

Wearing a black sweat suit and shaking off the remaining drops of water in his hair after a workout at the Meadowbrook Aquatic Center, Phelps said the most important thing for him is that he was back in the pool training.

"I'm back to my routine, the thing I love, the thing I care about most," Phelps said. "To be able to get back in the water and get back to a normal schedule is what I am happy about most."

Phelps and his coach, Bob Bowman, in November gained ownership of Meadowbrook and the North Baltimore Aquatic Club, where the swimmer began training at age 7.

Phelps declined to address the possibility of criminal charges and reiterated his desire to put the furor behind him.

"You know, it happens," he said. "When stupid things are (done), bad judgment is made and mistakes are made, it happens."

Phelps apologized to his fans and sponsors after the tabloid News of the World published a picture that appeared to show the Olympic champion smoking marijuana during a November house party at the University of South Carolina.

Lisa Leslie to retire from Sparks at season's end

EL SEGUNDO, Calif. (AP)—Three-time WNBA MVP and four-time Olympic gold medalist Lisa Leslie will call it quits after her upcoming 12th season with the Los Angeles Sparks.

The 36-year-old center announced her decision Wednesday, accompanied by her 19-month-old daughter and husband.

Leslie, a cornerstone of the league since its start in 1997, guided the Sparks to WNBA championships in 2001 and 2002.

"I'm not going to pull a (Michael) Jordan and come back in a year or two," she said. "For me, I feel good about where I am. ... I just know this is a good time. I can still help (the team). I don't want to be out there when I can't do it."

Leslie said she considered retiring last season when it became more difficult to balance her family life and her basketball career. She took the 2007 season off to give birth to her first child, Lauren, and returned last season. She is married to Michael Lockwood.

Her teammates and Sparks coach Michael Cooper persuaded her to play one season so fans could give her a proper send-off.

"This year I have another opportunity to put more of 100 percent into my job one last time," Leslie said. "It's really difficult balancing the team and family.

"I love being a wife, I enjoy my husband and our time. I love being a mom. I'm really passionate about raising a child and being there for her. For me, I just see it's really hard to give 100 percent to everything."

Since the WNBA began in 1997, Leslie has been one of the league's highest-profile and well-liked players.

"Not only do the Sparks owe her an enormous amount of gratitude, the WNBA owes so much to Lisa Leslie, who was part of starting the league," Sparks co-owner Carla Christofferson said. "Without Lisa Leslie, the WNBA wouldn't be what it is. There's nothing any of us who love the sport can say to thank her for that."

Cooper described the player he nicknamed "Smooth" as a combination of Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Wilt Chamberlain and Bill Russell. Leslie is the WNBA's career scoring and rebounding leader and a two-time defensive player of the year.

"There's a lot of basketball players who have had an impact on the league, but the way she's done it (sets her apart)," Cooper said. "She's never been about individual accolades. She's spectacular in every way you could describe her."

After retiring, Leslie doesn't plan to coach but will keep holding camps for kids. "I love the opportunity of being a role model," she said. "Ever since I was 7 years old, I would write my name all over the house in hopes of giving out autographs and inspiring people. That's something I really enjoy."

While the Sparks will have Leslie for one more season, they'll open play in June without league MVP and rookie of the year Candace Parker, who is expecting her first child in May. She averaged 18.5 points and 9.5 rebounds in her debut season.

Documents: Trainer discusses injecting Bonds

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Court documents show Barry Bonds tested positive for three types of steroids, and his personal trainer once told his business manager in the Giants' clubhouse how he injected the slugger with performance-enhancing drugs "all over the place."

Prosecutors plan to use those 2000-2003 test results and other evidence, detailed in documents released Wednesday, at Bonds' trial next month to try to prove he lied when he told a federal grand jury in December 2003 that he never knowingly used steroids.

Bonds' attorneys want that evidence suppressed, and U.S. District Judge Susan Illston is to hear arguments Thursday on what to allow jurors to hear. Bonds' trainer Greg Anderson, who was jailed several times for refusing to answer questions before a grand jury, appears to be at the heart of the government's case. But his lawyer, Mark Geragos, said Anderson will again refuse to discuss Bonds if prosecutors call him to testify.

Also among the evidence made public were a positive test for amphetamines in 2006 in a urine sample Bonds gave to Major League Baseball; doping calendars Anderson maintained with the initials "BB" and a handwritten note seized from his house labeled "Barry" that appears to be a laundry list of steroids and planned blood tests; and a list of current and former major leaguers, including Jason Giambi, who are expected to testify at the March 2 trial.

The documents said that Steve Hoskins, Bonds' childhood friend and personal assistant, secretly tape-recorded a 2003 conversation with Anderson in the Giants' clubhouse because Hoskins wanted to prove to Bonds' father, Bobby Bonds, that his son was using steroids.

Anderson and Hoskins, who were near Bonds' locker, were discussing steroid injections, and at one point, they lowered their voices to avoid being overheard as players, including Benito Santiago, and others walked by, according to the documents.

Anderson: "No, what happens is, they put too much in one area, and ... actually ball up and puddle. And what happens is, it actually will eat away and make an indentation. And it's a cyst. It makes a big (expletive) cyst. And you have to drain it. Oh yeah, it's gnarly. ... Hi Benito. ... Oh it's gnarly."

Hoskins: "... Is that why Barry's didn't do it in one spot, and you didn't just let him do it one time?"

Anderson: "Oh no. I never. I never just go there. I move it all over the place."

Also during that conversation, Anderson told Hoskins that "everything that I've been doing at this point, it's all undetectable," according to the documents.

"See, the stuff that I have ... we created it," he was quoted as saying. "And you can't, you can't buy it anywhere. You can't get it anywhere else."

He added that he was unconcerned about Bonds testing positive because Marion Jones and other athletes using the same drugs had not been caught doping.

"So that's why I know it works. So that's why I'm not even trippin'. So that's cool," Anderson said, according to the transcript.

The San Francisco Chronicle first reported about a tape recording involving Anderson on Oct. 16, 2004, but did not identify the person he was speaking to.

Bonds attorneys argued that none of Anderson's statements outside of court should be admissible.

"If Anderson does not testify for the government, the truth of any statement he may (or may not) have made out of court cannot be so tested," lead Bonds attorney Allen Ruby wrote. "Mr. Bonds will be stripped of the opportunity to confront and cross-examine the most prejudicial but least reliable evidence against him."

Bonds and Hoskins had a nasty falling out after slugger went to the FBI with accusations Hoskins stole from him.

Three of Bonds' test results were seized in a 2003 raid on the Bay Area Laboratory Co-Operative, the headquarters of a massive sports doping ring shut down by federal agents. Agents said they seized numerous results of blood and urine tests by Bonds, which prosecutors argue show that the slugger was intimately involved with BALCO.

Bonds lawyers moved to suppress 24 drug tests from 2000-06; more than two dozen drug calendars; BALCO log sheets; handwritten notes; opinion evidence on steroids, human growth hormone, THG, EPO and Clomid; witness descriptions of Bonds' "physical, behavioral and emotional characteristics"—including acne on his back, testicle shrinkage, head size, hat size, hand size, foot size and sexual behavior—recorded conversations that didn't include Bonds; and voice mails allegedly left by Bonds on the answering machine of former girlfriend Kimberly Bell.

Jeter reiterates A-Rod has teammates' support

TAMPA, Fla. (AP)—Yankees captain Derek Jeter wants to reiterate it yet again: Alex Rodriguez has the support of his teammates.

Rodriguez became an offseason focal point again this winter with the release of former manager Joe Torre's book, "The Yankee Years."

Torre mentioned that some people in the Yankees clubhouse referred to Rodriguez as "A-Fraud."

"Like I've said before, we all support Alex. He's our teammate," Jeter said Wednesday after working out at the Yankees' minor league complex.

"It seems like that we keep talking about the same things over and over again. It's not like this a new thing that's come up. The only thing that you'd like to see, going into spring training is, you'd like to see everyone talking about the excitement of the season and getting ready for the season. That's the unfortunate thing."

Jeter said former Yankees bullpen catcher Mike Borzello, in a kidding manner with Rodriguez, sometimes called the slugger "A-Fraud."

"He joked with him, Jeter said. "It wasn't like people on the team. I've never heard someone on the team say that. That never happened."

Jeter has not read Torre's book, but has followed recent media accounts.

"Knowing Mr. Torre, he's never going to intentionally try to hurt somebody," Jeter said. "He's like a second father to me. Everyone knows how close we are. He's not going to intentionally go out and do harm to somebody. That's not the kind of person he is."

A busy offseason by the Yankees, including the signing of free agents C.C. Sabathia, A.J. Burnett and Mark Teixeira, has Jeter upbeat.

"I'll tell you what, I'm probably as excited about this season as any season in a long time," Jeter said. "We made some great additions. They said they wanted to improve our pitching staff and we got arguably two of the best in the game. We added Tex. They always talk about how great of a hitter he is. He's an all-around player."

The Yankees run of 13 consecutive postseason trips ended during an injury-marred season last year.

"It boils down to everybody staying healthy, especially in our division with so many good teams," Jeter said. "I'm pretty excited about this year."

3 beach V-ball tilts before 2009 Marianas Cup

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Three tune-up tournaments have been scheduled in separate venues leading up to the 2009 Marianas Cup Beach Volleyball Festival.

Last night, the women's two-person beach volleyball league kicked off at Hyatt Regency Saipan.

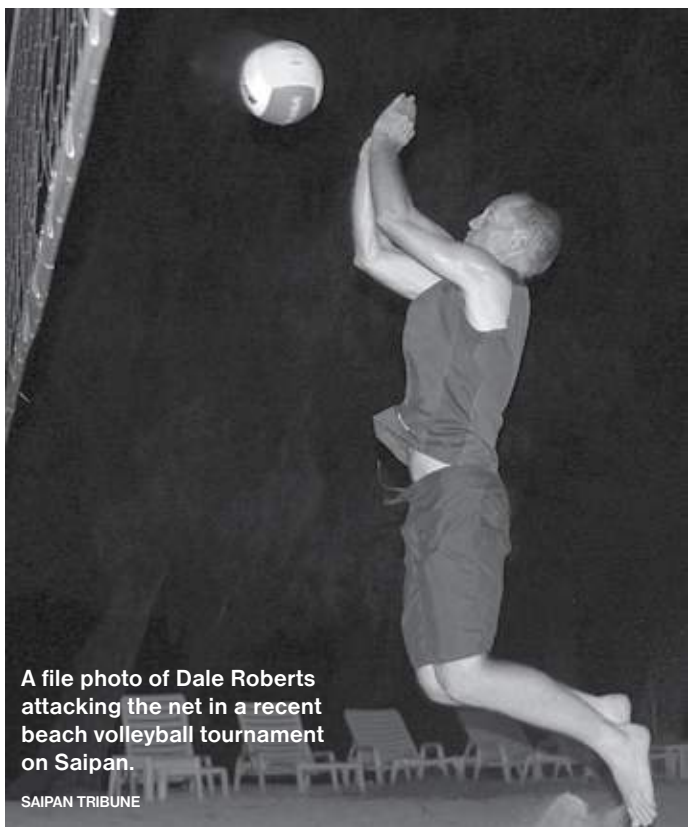
All games will start at 4:30pm with the participating teams to play in a double elimination format. For more details, contact Kim, Kelly, or Russ at 286-0318.

Then on Feb. 11, the men's two-person beach volleyball league will begin at the Pacific Islands Club with a total of 16 teams expected to join.

Games will begin at the 5pm and the teams will play in a double-elimination format.

Interested teams can register at the PIC volleyball court on Tuesday, Feb. 10, with an entry fee of $10 for members of the Northern Mariana Islands Volleyball Association and $15 for non-members.

You may call Dan Wesphal or Russ Quinn at 287-0318 for more information.



A file photo of Dale Roberts attacking the net in a recent beach volleyball tournament on Saipan.

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Another exciting event coming up next week is the Fiesta on the Beach to be staged at the Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan.

This will be a one-day event scheduled for Feb. 15 and is being held for the first time.

The two-person event will be for both men and women's divisions.

One of the organizers, Tyce Mister, said they are anticipating 10 women's and 16 men's teams to join.

Other NMIVA members who are coordinating this event are Bruce Berline, Rob Epley, Russ Quinn, and Chris Fizer of Fiesta.

Seafix, one of the sponsors, have designed and built two new court poles to replace the old ones. Mister said the event's main objective is to promote beach volleyball in general and to build excitement for the 17th Marianas Cup, which had been set for March 6-8.

The event is expected to become the biggest ever with a strong field of participants from Japan, Korea, Guam, Italy, and the U.S. mainland vying for the top honors.

Olympic gold medalist Phil Dalhauser has already assured that he would return to Saipan for the fourth time to join the annual event.

3 teams compete in SSC virtual swim meet

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Action in the SSC 2009 Virtual Heptathlon Meet will start today at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in Marpi.

The virtual meet will have SSC bets competing against swimmers from the Bahamas and Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan. The event is called virtual meet as participants need not to swim in one venue on the same date, and results are sent via email to determine the top performers in each event.

It was also called a heptathlon meet having 10 events lined up in the competition, namely the 100m breaststroke, 100m backstroke, 100m freestyle, 400m freestyle, 50m butterfly, 200m freestyle, 50m breaststroke, 50m backstroke, 50m freestyle, and 100 butterfly.

SSC treasurer Lisa Kimball said more than 20 SSC swimmers are joining the meet, while Tsunami Saipan has 22 representatives.

Former SSC coach Michael Stewart has his swimmers from Bahamas entered in the virtual meet, but Kimball was not informed of the number of entries.

Each participant will get points based on how they finished in the 10 events. The faster the time is the higher the points a swimmer gets. The participant to get the most points will earn the High Point award, which will be given to various age groups.

Last year's virtual meet featured around 100 swimmers from Japan, the Marshall Islands, Palau, and Saipan.

Tsunami Saipan's Rezne Wong had 655 points to win the boys' 15-and-over age group, while SSC's Abigail Martinsen gained 320 points to take home first place in the girls' 9-10 division. Teammate Victoria Chentsova came away with 225 points to finish second.

International Buccaneers of Japan dominated last season's virtual meet.

Kelly Moodie collected a heptathlon record of 665 points in the boys' 13-14 division. Other Buccaneers swimmers who won their respective division were Alexis McCoy, Anna Saber, Kana Moodie, Shawma Chun, Mokhtar Al-Yamani, and Yutaro Sahara.

OL'ACES

From Page 36

luked at the baseline.

IT&E's shooters could not get a quick look at the basket from outside against the Ol'Aces' good perimeter defense, forcing Ruluked to bring the ball toward the right baseline.

With the 24-second shot clock wining down, Ruluked attacked at the baseline, but was shut down by Gabriel White and Jack Lizama.

Seeing traffic, Ruluked kicked the ball out to Peter Mendiola, who also tried to drive from the right wing, but lost his dribble with the ball heading to the baseline in front of IT&E's bench.

Mendiola chased the ball and was able to bring it back to the court, but the possession went to the wrong hands with Elias Rangamar picking up the loose ball.

Rangamar then sprinted to their frontcourt and faked off Mendiola, who could not check his momentum and banged into the Ol'Aces shooter.

Rangamar was attempting from beyond the arc when he drew a foul from Mendiola and went 2-for-3 from the foul line to give the Ol'Aces a 127-125 lead, with 6.9 left on the clock.

After Rangamar made his third charity, IT&E called, time out, but failed to convert on its offensive play. Abuel missed a fallaway jumper against the outstretched arms of Rangamar, and Kae Bernardo was called for a foul against Romeo Iginoef in the rebound play.

Iginoef made the insurance first free throw and with 1.6 seconds left on the clock, intentionally missed his second charity. IT&E collared the rebound, but didn't have enough time to put up a decent shot ending the team's two-game winning streak.

In the second match, the CNMI Nationals notched their second win in as many games with an easy 79-59 triumph over the Diamond Auto Fixers.

First Game

Ol'Aces 128 – Pelisamen 49, Rangamar 17, Lizama 14, P. Camacho 12, Iginoef 11, White 9, Tudela 4, Van Buren 4, Renguul 2.

IT&E 125 – Estolas 26, Bernardo 24, Abuel 21, Ranola 18, Ruluked 17, Mendiola 4, Artates 4, De Guzman 4.

Scoring by quarters: 25-18, 46-41, 72-71, 99-all, 114-all, 128-125.

Second Game

CNMI Nationals 79 – Tarkong 19, Iguel 18, Rabauliman 12, Cruz 11, Tumaquip 5, Camacho 4, Chariton 4, Johnson 2, Moses 2.

Diamond Auto Fixers 59 – Camacho 15, Joyner 9, Esdrelon 9, Dayrit 7, Peredo 7, Muleta 6, Talania 4, Apelo 2.

Scoring by quarters: 9-8, 36-23, 56-49, 79-59.

THE

From Page 36

That humble beginnings, he said, helped him in his pursuit for greater heights for his BJJ/MMA dreams at the Camp Springs.

"It's a great honor to be a blue belt under Master Lloyd, one of the best in the business," he said.

Camacho was glad and thankful for the opportunity to give his message to the youth of Saipan, not only to the fighters but also to all the kids who are humbly pursuing their dreams, whatever it may be.

He said that his dad tells him all the time that, "when you have a goal, don't let anyone or anything stop you or slow you down from reaching your goals."

With the right mindset, Camacho said anyone can have his/her dream come true.

"And in all honesty, you can accomplish anything if you put your mind to it. It is working really well for me. Whether you want to be a doctor or an engineer or a professional MMA fighter, when you have the right mindset you can accomplish any goal. Don't let anything stop you," Camacho said.

He said there is no limit on what one can do to make things work and into the right direction.

Camacho reported that his training has been going really well.

"Right now I have a lot of teammates who have upcoming fights and they are in one group for the training programs.

"So we have been putting in three to four hours a day workouts. I'm working on my MMA game as a whole, but concentrating more on my BJJ. I want to learn Master Lloyd's system and be good at it. It's awesome," Camacho said.

He is currently training for the Pan-American and the World Championship this coming March and in June to be held in California.

For now, he has taken a break on the MMA fighting scene.

Camacho said he is trying to get better at all aspects of the game.

He is working on his boxing with coach Bernard Roach, his Muay Thai with Kru Jose Villarisco, and his ground game/ Brazilian Jiu Jitsu with Master Lloyd Irvin, who is his overall coach.

"Aside from all these awesome coaches, I have world class/high level sparring partners in all aspects of the game," he said.

SAPONG

From Page 36

Area Championships.

Next on the list is the 12th IAAF World Championships, which Berlin, Germany will be hosting from Aug. 15 to 23.

Sapong added the OAA Council will also be discussing updates at the IAAF Regional Development Centre in Brisbane, Australia.

The Brisbane facility [serving Oceania] is one of the nine RDCs which IAAF built to function as a "branch office" of the federation supporting the work of the member federations and providing a focal point for the program of development action in the areas they serve. The eight other RDCs are located in Beijing, China [serving East Asia]; Cairo, Egypt [Arabic-speaking Africa and Asia]; Dakar, Senegal [serving French-speaking Africa]; Jakarta, Indonesia [serving South and Southeast Asia]; Moscow, Russia [serving Europe and central Asia]; Nairobi, Kenya [serving English-speaking Africa]; San Juan, Puerto Rico [serving Central America and the Caribbean]; and Santa Fe, Argentina [serving South America].

Sapong as Micronesia's representative to the OAA Council will present to the group the budget for the 2009 Micronesian Area Championships.

"I will submit the budget for review and also seek the sponsorship of Adidas for the area championships," Sapong said.

Koror, Palau will be hosting the 2009 edition of the biennial track meet in December. Two years ago, Guam was the host, while the area championship took place on Saipan in 2005.

Sapong said the Micronesian Area Championship is tentatively set for Dec. 11 and 12.

SPORTS BRIEFS

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	41	9	.820	_
Philadelphia	23	24	.489	16 1/2
New Jersey	23	27	.460	18
New York	21	27	.438	19
Toronto	19	32	.373	22 1/2

Southeast Division

Orlando	37	11	.771	_
Atlanta	28	20	.583	9
Miami	26	22	.542	11
Charlotte	19	29	.396	18
Washington	10	39	.204	27 1/2

Central Division

Cleveland	39	9	.813	_
Detroit	26	21	.553	12 1/2
Milwaukee	24	28	.462	17
Chicago	22	28	.440	18
Indiana	19	30	.388	20 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

San Antonio	33	15	.688	_
New Orleans	28	18	.609	4
Dallas	29	19	.604	4
Houston	30	20	.600	4
Memphis	13	35	.271	20

Northwest Division

Denver	33	16	.673	_
Portland	30	18	.625	2 1/2
Utah	27	22	.551	6
Minnesota	17	31	.354	15 1/2
Oklahoma City	11	38	.224	22

Pacific Division

L.A. Lakers	39	9	.813	_
Phoenix	26	21	.553	12 1/2
Golden State	16	34	.320	24
Sacramento	11	39	.220	29
L.A. Clippers	10	39	.204	29 1/2

Yesterday's Games

Orlando 125, L.A. Clippers 96
L.A. Lakers 115, Toronto 107
New Jersey 115, Washington 88
Detroit 93, Miami 90
Cleveland 107, New York 102
Memphis 104, Houston 93
Atlanta 94, Minnesota 86
Chicago 107, New Orleans 93
Denver 114, Oklahoma City 113
Dallas 104, Portland 99
Golden State 124, Phoenix 112

By The Associated Press

LOCAL SCORES

BUDWEISER STANDINGS

CNMI Nationals	2	0
IT& E	2	1
Ol'Aces	2	1
Quichocho Law Office	1	0
Runnin' Rebels	1	2
Diamond Auto Fixers	0	2
Docomo	0	2

MISO STANDINGS

Boys

MHS	2	0
KHS	2	1
SSHS	0	3

Girls

MHS	3	0
KHS	4	1
MCS	1	3
SSHS	0	4

Lady Ayuyus wallop Lady Knights

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Kagman High School reasserted its supremacy over Mt. Carmel School in the girls varsity division of the 2008-2009 MISO Basketball League after an emphatic 58-26 victory Wednesday night at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

The Lady Ayuyus topped the Lady Knights in their first meeting, 52-42, during the opening of the league last month.

In that game, Kagman secured the win only in the last minute of the match when MCS collapsed against the former's pressure defense.

In their second outing, the Lady Ayuyus had the game in the bag as early as in the first quarter, which ended with Kagman in front, 16-2.

The Lady Knights made only a field goal in the first period courtesy of Noelle Calvo, who was forced to carry the load for MCS, as top scorer Nicole Lebria was injured.

Lebria, who scored 24 points in their first meeting with the Lady Ayuyus, was nursing a left knee injury, which she sustained a week ago.

The Lady Knights picked up the scoring in the second period, but still it was only Calvo who nailed field goals in that canto. Calvo made two baskets and went 2-for-5 from the foul line, while her two teammates added a charity apiece finally putting MCS' production in double figures [10] against Kagman's 30 markers.

In the third period, Kagman held the Lady Knights to only two points in the first 7:30 of the frame before a Hail Mary shot from Justalyn Camacho went in giving MCS its fourth point of the quarter.

Calvo scored Mt. Carmel's other basket, but she spent the remaining five minutes of the third period on the bench due to a minor injury. Calvo was barreling her way to the paint when she collided with Kagman defenders and fell hard on the ball. It took a while before she picked herself up and when she did, she limped a bit heading to the bench.

With their second best scorer also gone, things turned from bad to worse for the Lady Knights in the third period.

Calvo returned a few minutes after the fourth quarter started and added seven more points despite still playing hurt.

Lebria also decided to play in the fourth quarter, hoping to start a major comeback for the Lady Knights. She made her first two outside shots, but muffed the next six, including three 3-point attempts, as her legs were simply not there to give good form to her outside shots.

The loss dropped the Lady Knights to a 1-3 slate, having recorded their lone win in the league against Southern last week.

The Lady Ayuyus improved to a 4-1 record, losing only to the MHS Dolphins.

KHS 58 – Mesa 18, Yvo. Bennett 10, Diaz 6, Cabrera 6, Mizutani 6, Yve. Bennett 5, Hofschneider 2, Faisao 2, Aldan 2, Repeki 2.

MCS 26 – Calvo 17, Lebria 5, J. Camacho 3, Cielo 1.

Scoring by quarters: 16-2, 30-10, 44-14, 58-26.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Kagman's Agatha Repeki (6) attempts a shot against Mt. Carmel's Ryanne Camacho, left, and Mai Nakajima during their game in the MISO caging Wednesday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

Amigos Golf qualifier this Sunday

The Amigos Golf Club will hold its February Ace Qualifier this Sunday, Feb. 8, at Kingfisher Golf Links in Talafofo.

Tournament director Syl Ada said showtime for this weekend's tournament is 12pm.

The revived Amigos Golf Club is led by president Ed Manglona and vice president Joe Sablan Jr. Other officials are: secretary Terry Attao; treasurer Lorraine Babauta; public information officer Pete Leon Guerrero, and tournament director Ada.

Its board of directors include Ben Jones, Manny Blas, Joe Lizama, Frank Guerrero, Joe Tudela, and John M. Guerrero.

According to its website (www.amigosgolf.webs.com), the mission of the Amigos Golf Club is to foster friendship and camaraderie between friends, both men and women, who share the passion for the game of golf.

It said the new club is a spinoff of the old Amigos Club, but continues to be a venue for fellowship between friends or amigos.

The club plays every Sunday in accordance with the schedule, except when prevented by other conflicting events. Club members vie for the coveted monthly ace which is determined by the best net score between the qualifying game and the ace game held during each month.

Amigos Golf Club also holds an annual Ace of Aces Tournament that expects to crown the Club Champion from among the 12 monthly aces.

Its motto is: "Play hard and play fair." ***(PR)***

All set for 8th Annual Valentine's Day Walk

Marianas Walking Association, formerly Saipan Walking Association Inc., will hold its 8th Annual Valentine's Day Walk on Feb. 14.

MWA said there would be no entry fee for all interested participants.

Registration will start at 6am at the Carolinian Utt, across the Bank of Guam building in Garapan.

Drinks and fruits would be provided as well as special Valentine cookie treats from Herman's Modern Bakery.

T-shirts would also be available albeit for sale.

SAIWA changed its name to MWA in Sept. 15, 2008.

The launching of a new name also came with the forging with a new partnership with the Japan Walking Association.

MWA said that this collaboration effort between the MWA and JWA is part of the goal to expand and promote walking to the Japanese tourism market.

MWA said that these promotional efforts would also extend to the neighboring islands of Tinian, Rota and Guam.

"As we have done in the past, with the start of 2009, MWA will continue to hold community-oriented projects," said MWA secretary Mario Espeleta.

He said the association is also focused in coming up eco-friendly and "go green" activities and "walkabout to enjoy and experience the splendor of nature paths available in the CNMI."

The Valentine's Walk would be the group's first activity of the year. MWA is inviting the public to join them in a healthy lifestyle activity. ***(Nazario Rodriguez Jr.)***

Marianas Walking Association will hold its 8th Annual Valentine's Day Walk on Feb. 14. Photo shows two participants of the group's previous event.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Fil-Am Lions Club bowling tourney set Feb. 21-22

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Filipino-American Lions Club will hold its Classified Bowling Tournament on Feb. 21 and 22 at the Saipan Bowling Center with the advance registration already starting yesterday.

Organizers said that entries will be accepted only if there will be available slots after the advance registration.

The three-game roll-off will start at 6:30pm on Feb. 21 and 12:30pm on Feb. 22.

The stepladder finals will be held on the last day of the two-day event after the three-game roll-off is completed.

Bowlers have the option to bowl on the first day or the second day, or on both days, but only the highest series will be counted for determining the top three bowlers for the stepladder finals. Actual handicap will be added to each bowler's score.

Based on the tournament rules, only bowlers with average based on 12 games in any league can join the tournament. The official list compiled based on completed or ongoing SBA/PBA leagues shall be the basis for classification.

Bowlers with less than 12 games can play, but only under Class A. For unlisted bowlers, established average based on 12 or more games in any league may be used.

Classification of bowlers is based on averages as follows: Class A, 170 and over; Class B, 155 to 169; Class C, 154 and below.

Registration shall be on a "first come-first to pay" basis and lane assignments will be based on the order of registration.

Participants will be grouped in particular lanes by classification and they will move to a different pair of lanes for every game.

The Top 3 bowlers from each class will be determined base on the total score for the three-game series.

The championship phase will be a stepladder format—semifinal (No. 2 vs. No. 3), and the winner will bowl against the No. 1 for the championship in a knockout game.

Guaranteed prizes will be based on minimum of 72 entries. Amounts and number of cash awards may increase based on actual number of entries.

First place will win $300 in each class.

For further information, interested participants can contact Ador Dimaano, Gigi Zapanta, Robert Talavera, or any member of the Saipan Fil-American Lions Club.

LeBron ties Jordan for 50s at MSG

James scored a season-high 52 points in his 21st career triple-double, joined Michael Jordan as the only visitors with multiple 50-point games at the present Madison Square Garden. **32**

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Lady Ayuyus wallop Lady Knights

Kagman High School reasserted its supremacy over Mt. Carmel School in the girls varsity division of the 2008-2009 MISO Basketball League after an emphatic 58-26 victory. **35**

Ol'Aces beat IT&E in 2OT

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Ol'Aces showed poise in the last 26.7 seconds of the game to pull off a pulsating 128-125 double overtime win over IT&E in the 2008-2009 BANMI/Budweiser Basketball League Wednesday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

A big defensive stop and three free throws allowed Ol'Aces to wrap up the match that seemed had no ending, as neither team wanted to throw in the towel.

The game was tied for the last time at 125-all after Freddie Pelisamen drove to the middle against two IT&E defenders and pulled up for a floater with the ball bouncing back to the basket.

IT&E sued for time in the last 26.7 seconds of the second extension period hoping to set up a game-winning play.

Wowie Abuel inbounded the ball from the left sideline opposite IT&E's bench and gave it to Estolas, who then spotted Gyles Ru-

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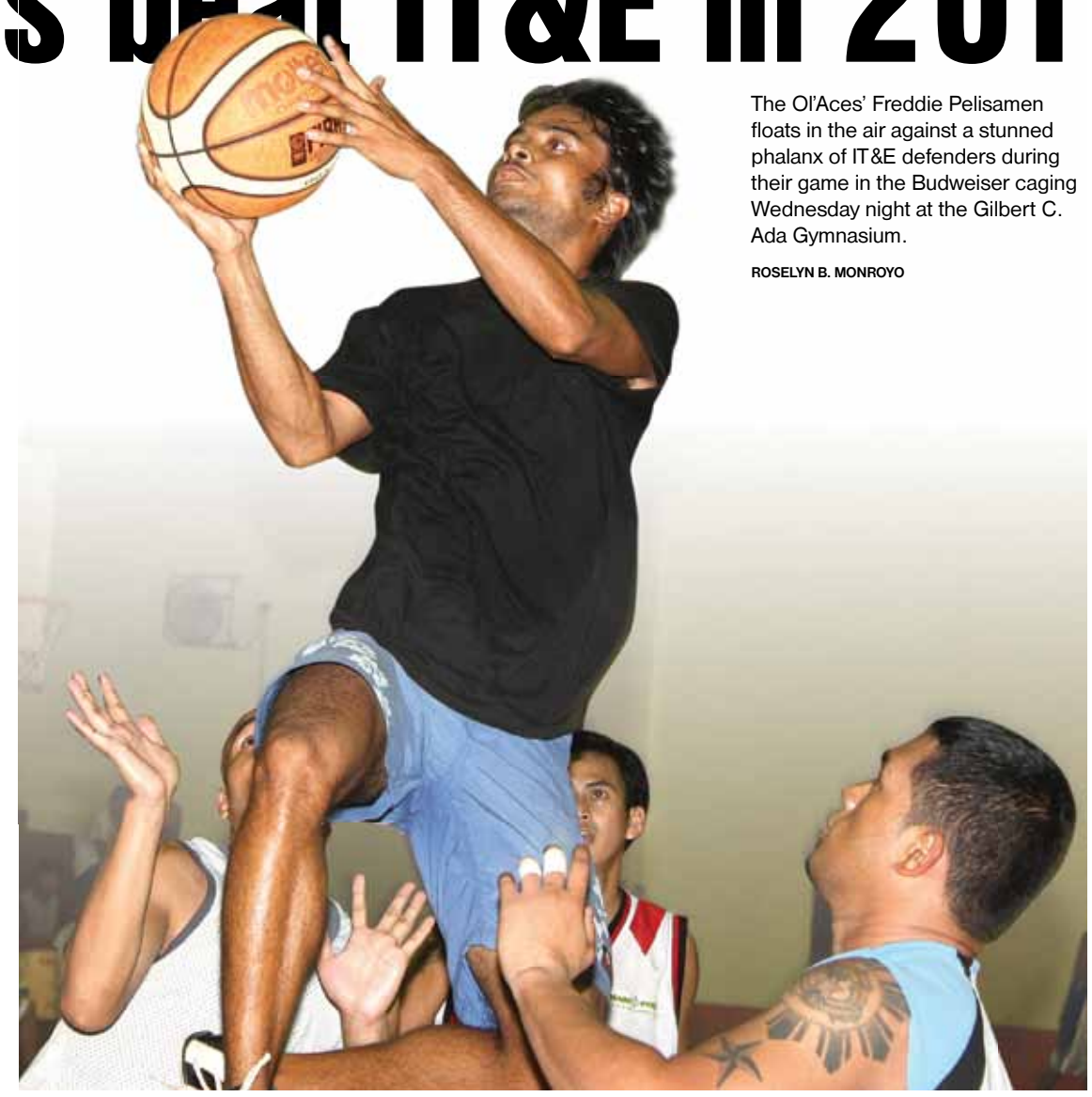

The Ol'Aces' Freddie Pelisamen floats in the air against a stunned phalanx of IT&E defenders during their game in the Budweiser caging Wednesday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

'The Crank' gets jiu jitsu blue belt

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

TRENCH TECH

Mainland-based MMA practitioner Frank "The Crank" Camacho continues to earn the respect of his trainers in the fighting arena.

Saipan's young jewel was recently promoted to blue belt at Lloyd Irvin's Brazilian Jiu Jitsu Academy in Maryland.

Trench Tech Inc. president and promoter Justis "Cuki" Alvarez said blue belt is a milestone promotion in Brazilian Jiu Jitsu.

Alvarez said it usually takes two years to accomplish this feat, but Camacho did it in just under a year.

"He continues to compete in BJJ tournaments around the U.S. and continues to win and represent the CNMI proudly. He is a great ambassador to the CNMI and continues to make us all proud," said Alvarez.

Camacho moved from Guam as a teenager to personally train with Team Lloyd Irvin.

In an e-mail message yesterday, Camacho said it is a great honor having his grappling background with Trench Tech Purebred Saipan under the tutelage of Alvarez and Tetsuji Kato.

See THE on Page 34

Frank "The Crank" Camacho, right, was recently promoted to blue belt by Lloyd Irvin's Brazilian Jiu Jitsu Academy in Maryland.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Sapong to attend OAA Council meeting

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Oceania Athletics Association Council member and Micronesian representative Robin Sapong left for Fiji Wednesday to attend the 2009 OAA Council meeting in Nadi.

Joining Sapong at the meeting in Fiji are IAAF Area Representative to Oceania Bill Bailey, OAA Council president Geoff Gardner of the Norfolk Island, vice president Filimoni Vuli Waqa of Fiji, Australia representative Danny Cocoran, New Zealand representative Trevor Spittle, General Island representative Willie Fong of Samoa, and Polynesian representative Titaua Maurin of French Polynesia.

Sapong

Sapong, who is also the secretary general and treasurer of the Northern Marianas Athlerics, said there are four main issues to be discussed at the meeting.

The first one is a review of the 20008 season, which saw Oceania athletes compete in the Beijing Olympics, World Championships and the Oceania Grand Prix and

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OFF THE BENCH

By BOB COLDEEN
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Coldeen is a longtime journalist in the CNMI and is currently the news director of KSPN2

Greatest announcers

Discovery of the ecstasy and agony of sports comes through our ears. The best television announcers give life to two-dimensional pulsating pixels. The worst announcers ruin the game.

Esteemed sportswriter David Halberstam published his list of 50 greatest sports announcers using these criteria: contributions, trendsetting and pioneering; measure, impact and length of their visibility; legacy and historical relevance; distinction in their on-air role; national reach.

His Top 10: 1. Howard Cossell; 2. John Madden; 3. Brent Musburger; 4. Al Michaels; 5. Dick Enberg ; 6. Curt Gowdy; 7. Keith Jackson; 8. Bob Costas; 9. Jim McKay; and 10. Pat Summerall.

Of course, it is all purely subjective and argumentative. My criteria is much simpler: do I like him?

Personally I would throw Cossell and Gowdy off the list. I could not stand to hear their voices. Musburger would move down more than a few notches. Madden was great, is still good but he's starting to wear thin on me. Almost like Dick Vitale (12) who wore me out more than 10 years ago.

Halberstam likes son Joe Buck (13) more than father Jack Buck (unlisted). I would reverse that. Jack made the 1988 Kurt Gibson home run call, "I can't believe what I just saw!" which goes side-by-side with Gibson's fist pump circling the bases.

My favorite announcer of all time is Vin Scully (16), broadcaster for the Los Angeles Dodgers who is 81 and entering his 59th season behind the mike. With a smooth, melodic voice, he weaves stories and uses language like a piano, making every game interesting and easy listening, doing it at least 162 times a season. Unlike players, Scully never has a bad game. He's the only announcer who can do a whole ballgame all by himself better than any other two guys.

Second on my list, nowhere to be found in Halberstam's, is Chick Hearn, former voice of the Los Angeles Lakers, inventor of now familiar phrases air ball, bunny hop, camping in the lane, caught with his hand in the cookie jar, dribble drive, finger roll, frozen rope, sky hook, slam dunk, etc.

Hearn once said, "He could be defender of the year—if everyone else dies."

And "If there are really 18,000 here tonight, a lot of them are dressed like seats."

Somewhere on my short list, and not mentioned by Halberstam, would be Dizzy Dean, a character so unique and deeply embedded in my formative years that he doesn't need to be on anybody's list; he's his own list. Listening to him with my grandfather as a pup learning the game each Saturday afternoon for the CBS Game of the Week along with "my lil' pardner" Pee Wee Reese, he made baseball enjoyable by playing with language and leaving us with many memorable musings.

"He slud into third."

"It ain't braggin' if you can back it up."

"Well, what's wrong with ain't?"

"The doctors x-rayed my head and found nothing."

"I ain't who I used to be, but who the hell is?"

Ain't that the truth? That's what the greatest announcers do—capture the truth and essence of sports for us to enjoy.